

Commentary

Blame all around for the LAPD scandal

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

(NNPA) — The stunning announcement by Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard Parks that he has called on the FBI to investigate the dirty cop in his department was greeted with much applause. Of course with fresh allegations piling up almost daily that LAPD officers beat and shot unarmed suspects, doctored evidence, gave perjured testimony, falsified reports, and covered up shootings of unarmed suspects, the embattled chief had to do something dramatic. But Parks' call for the FBI notwithstanding, the big question is how could the LAPD which seemed to be making progress in cleaning up its act since the beating of black motorist Rodney King nearly a decade ago come unglued again so easily?

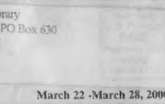
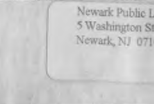
The first impulse is to point the finger at Parks for the LAPD's problems. And he certainly must bear some blame for them. He has squabbled publicly with the Los Angeles City Council over the role of the Los Angeles Police Commission's inspector general. This was a position mandated by the Christopher Commission established after the beating of King in 1991 to provide tougher civilian oversight over LAPD operations. Parks also balked at cooperating with a roll out team of investigators established by L.A. County District Attorney Gil Garcetti to independently probe police shootings. And he has reflexively defended officers involved in several questionable shootings of civilians in the past couple of years.

This month the current inspector general, Jeffrey English and the Police Commission, ruled that one of those shootings, that of an emotionally disturbed, middle-aged homeless woman by an LAPD officer last May, violated LAPD shooting policy. Parks has come off as a thin-skinned autocrat more concerned with guarding his turf against meaningful civilian oversight than with punishing officers accused of the overuse of deadly force.

But dumping full blame for the LAPD's problems on Parks is the cheap and easy way out. City officials, the Police Commission, and the District Attorney, yes, the general public, can't evade their responsibility for the problems. They have been more than content to take a convenient, hear-no-evil stance on the allegations of police abuse and leave it to the LAPD to investigate itself. This doctrine belief that the department can and will clean its own house is dangerous and self-serving. It prevents city officials from fully backing the Police Commission and the inspector general in providing the resources they need to conduct their own investigations of the use of force, violations, citizen complaints, and officer discipline procedures.

Then there's District Attorney Gil Garcetti. Parks has taken the equally surprising step of accusing Garcetti of stifling his efforts to clean up the LAPD mess by foot-dragging on prosecuting the rotten cops. Garcetti claims that he is bringing full speed ahead with his own investigation into the Ramparts scandal and has dropped hints that some cops will be prosecuted.

Yet the fact is that he has yet to bring any charges against any of the officers accused of wrongdoing. And he has given no indication when or even whether he will. Given his tepid, and cautious attitude for prosecuting officers accused of misconduct there is no reason to expect that his office will initiate waves of prosecutions against the Ramparts officers. Meanwhile, L.A. residents have expressed little outrage over the dirty dealings and have made no loud calls for city officials to clean the LAPD's house. The gross message that it's OK to rely on city officials and LAPD leaders to clean up the mess that they created.



Governor Whitman stands by affirmative action commitment



(Top-bottom) Secretary of State Buster Soares and Jon Corzine address luncheon attendees.



Gov. Whitman shakes hands with NY/NJ Port Authority General Manager Wilfred Chabrier.



New Jersey Economic Development Authority had many interested vendors at its exhibition during BizTech Expo 2000.



Dale Caldwell, Executive Director of Newark Alliance confers with New Jersey Secretary of State Buster Soares (left) during his visit at the BizTech Expo 2000.

Complete coverage on page B2

AT&T invests in the future of Edison Job Corps students

Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

NEWARK — There is no time like the present when it comes to getting things done, and with that in mind, the Edison Job Corps thinks to AT&T will be preparing students to compete in the 21st Century.

AT&T will invest \$1.25 million in four initiatives designed to give urban youths new opportunities to chart their careers and obtain training in technology, and \$350,000 has been earmarked for Edison Job Corps. The investments were announced in conjunction with the latest stop by President Clinton's New Markets Initiative tour.

One initiative, "Leadership Conversations for the Next America" will bring students and at-risk young adults together with local, state and national policy makers as part of a national forum series funded by AT&T. The conversations will engage high school students, Youth Opportunity Movement participants and Job Corps partners with policymakers in town-hall meetings to discuss economic opportunities, education, job skills and leadership for the 21st Century.

AT&T will spend an estimated \$250,000 to bring the series to cities across the U.S. over the next year, beginning in December. The company has received commitments from U.S.

Congressman Donald Payne of Newark, and Major Owens, U.S. congressman for Brooklyn. To spread the power of the conversations further, AT&T will donate and maintain an new World Wide Web site for the project, providing an ongoing, online dialogue among youths and policy makers across the country.

The New Jersey "Leadership Conversation" with Payne will include participants in the second AT&T initiative from the Edison Job Corps. The three-year program addresses the shortage of skilled workers in the information-technology industry. The bulk of the investment will be paid internships for training program graduates who meet technical certifications. AT&T also will provide mentors, equipment and materials to support the program.

Its third initiative will provide \$100,000 to help develop an Academy of Information Technology, a 9-12th grade curriculum in information technology. The academy, being developed by the National Academy Foundation and the Center for Occupational Research and Development, will be delivered via information technology in conjunction with existing high school curriculum.

In the fourth initiative, AT&T will distribute free print-and-online-education resources to schools, libraries and community-based organizations in Newark to promote job skill development



Rep. Donald Payne addresses students from Newark area high schools.

- and lifelong learning, including:
 - "User's Guide to the Information Age, a comprehensive, easy-to-use resource to help understand how technology works and impacts our lives;
 - "Library of the Workplace, a web-based program developed by the Center for Occupational Research and Development with support from AT&T to show students how academic concepts are directly linked to job skills;
 - "The AT&T Learning Network's free online basic technical training programs, with links to fee-based online learning courses.

"As a world leader in both communications and the support of education, AT&T is proud to present these programs," said Frank Ianna, president, AT&T Network Services. "By giving the leaders of tomorrow roadmaps to success, and providing them with valuable, real-world technical expertise, we can make a difference in many lives and make a real investment in America's future," said Ianna, who also is a member of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering's board of directors and the Stevens Institute of trustees.

World response to Mozambique crisis slow

By LaWanda Johnson

(NNPA) WASHINGTON DC — Three weeks and hundreds of lives after a cyclone ravages Mozambique, the United States deploys military relief efforts to the Southeastern African country sending cries of outrage through the international community. It was on February 11 that the cyclone hit, flooding Mozambique and leaving victims clinging to trees and perilous hopes of rescue. Now countries are emerging on the drowning nation with offers of relief and assistance that seem to always come to other countries sooner.

"...it may sound ungrateful, but I think the aid came too late. We could have saved some more lives if we had this kind of support from the beginning," Graca Machel, the former first lady of Mozambique and the wife of former South African President, Nelson Mandela told CNN. Machel is the widow of liberation leader and former president of Mozambique, Samora Machel.

"They knew (the cyclone) was coming weeks in advance," said Melvin Foote, Executive Director of the Constituency For Africa, "Just like they know when a hurri-

"...it may sound ungrateful, but I think the aid came too late. We could have saved some more lives if we had this kind of support from the beginning."

— Graca Machel, the former first lady of Mozambique and the wife of Nelson Mandela

cane is coming." Foote believes that it wasn't until there was a great outcry from the public after seeing media clips of flood victims literally clinging to trees in Mozambique that assistance was even offered.

"We mobilized a disaster assessment coordination team before things became critical in Mozambique," said Humanitarian Affairs representative from the United Nations, Phyllis Lee. "The situation worsened so quickly that we didn't have time to react." Along with over \$12 million in financial aid, the U.S. is using infrared cameras to spot flood survivors. The two major airports in Maputo and Beira are now accommodating a swarm of foreign aircraft carrying aid and relief workers. The United Nations says they have \$100 million in pledges and are prepared to assist in any way possible should the conditions in Mozambique worsen.

Foote believes the African country was slighted. "It revolves around the fact that we still don't view African as full people," said Foote. "We still don't see them [Africans] in the same light as we see the people in Kosovo, or Ireland or China." Foote maintains that President Clinton knew about the flood when he was addressing the African Summit nearly two weeks ago in Washington, D.C.

At that point, when aid was needed were helicopters and boats, things we could have provided," said Foote.

Mozambique Ambassador to the United States, Marcos Namashula, agreed with Machel and Foote saying, "It was slow coming (U.S. relief efforts). Many people could have been saved had they responded sooner."

"The final death toll is estimated to be in the thousands. The politically challenged country was making great strides in economic growth after recovering from civil wars. 'Always, we have to be dying in thousands. When we are dying in thousands then they come running,' said Machel. 'It's always too late.'"

According to NNPA at press time, the United States and the U.S. are sending aid to the devastating floods in Mozambique, it was said to be prepared to forgive all of the southern African States' bilateral debt. However Neula, by many accounts, is an unlikely hero to that cause.

Community Calendar

MARCH 22

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Park System will host college classes at the Thompson Park Craft Center on Wednesdays, through April 19, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. For more information, call (732) 842-4000.

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Park System hosts a sculpture classes for area residents at the Thompson Park Craft Center. Wednesdays through April 19, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For further information call (732) 842-4000.

NEWARK — Essex County College hosts Star Ledger columnist Lawrence Hall as part of their Sociology Week lecture series at 1 p.m. For further information, call (973) 877-3250.

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS — CareerGraspiv, a career management service, presents a free job fair "warm-up" session from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call (877) 402-8453.

NEWARK — Rodgers' and Harmanstein's "The King and I" will premier at Prudential Hall, at the NJPAC, 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (973) 297-5534.

MARCH 23

NEWARK — Essex County College hosts a panel discussion on the "Alcohol, Culture and Drugs: Dealing with Diversity in Treatment and Prevention," 1 p.m. For more information call (973) 877-3250.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Board of Education will conduct a midyear report meeting at the Plainfield High School library at 7 p.m.

HACKETTSTOWN — Centenary College hosts an interactive museum exhibit at the college theater from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (908) 852-1400, ext. 226.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theatre will host "Romero and Juliet: Ballet de l'Opera de Bordeaux," Call (732) 246-7459 for more information.

ENGLEWOOD — "Pirates of Penzance" will be showing at the John Harms Center for the Arts. For further information, call (201) 567-3900.

TRENTON — "History and Public Policy: The Door in the Headlights," will be the theme of the 7th Annual New Jersey History Issues Convention at Monmouth University, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information, call (609) 252-6082.

MARCH 23

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University holds a seminar "Welfare to Work Reform in Hudson County" from 5:15-8:45 p.m. Call (201) 200-2308.

NEWARK — The Newark Museum hosts a special spring event for seniors. Free admission. For reservations, call (973) 596-6613.

MARCH 24

NEW YORK — The Metropolitan Museum of Art presents "Musicians from Marlboro," featuring works from Hayden and Mozart at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25. For tickets, call (212) 570-3949.

MARCH 25

ORANGE — Orange High School hosts workshops focusing on lesson plan development, and structure, using the arts, from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (908) 766-9444.

BRIDGEWATER — The Big Apple Circus Under the Big Top tent at Somerset Ballpark, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call (973) 297-5534.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theatre presents Johnny Mathis, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$50-\$100. For further information, call 1-877-STATE-11.

MONTCLAIR — The Israel Crane House Museum Grounds presents "Demonstrations of a Soldier's Life in the Revolutionary War," and again on the 28th. Call (973) 744-1796 for more information.

TRENTON — The Trenton Convention and Visitors Bureau hosts Tom Jones at the War Memorial at 8 p.m. For tickets, call (856) 338-9000 or (215) 335-2000.

MARCH 26

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University Chamber Ensembles will perform their fifth annual "Down and Down" concert in the Ingalls Recital Hall at the Jersey City Public Library, 7 p.m. For further information, call (201) 200-2020.

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University features their Spring Open House for prospective students. For further information, call (866) 441-NJCU.

MARCH 28

THI STATE — McDonald's restaurants throughout the tri-state are holding "Recruitment Day," from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for residents to learn about employment opportunities. For more information, call (973) 890-1809.

MARCH 29

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Board of Education will conduct a public hearing on the 2000-01 budget at the Plainfield High School library at 8 p.m.

MARCH 30

NEW YORK — The Metropolitan Museum of Art presents the Billy Taylor Trio jazz concert, featuring the music of Duke Ellington and Billy Taylor at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30. For tickets, call (212) 570-3949.

PLAINFIELD — Parenting Pathways and the Plainfield Area Humane Society will hold a fundraising rummage sale at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (908) 756-7521 or (908) 880-5826.

MARCH 31

NEW YORK — The Metropolitan Museum of Art presents "Great Musicians on Film," a music lecture series at 7 p.m. Tickets \$15.

APRIL 1

WEST ORANGE — The Essex County Clerk will be at the Town Hall from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, call (973) 621-4915.

APRIL 5

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Auxiliary of Saint Peter's University Hospital will host "Fashion Runway 2000: An Evening of Elegance and Style," at the Radcliffe Hotel at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$45. For more information, call (732) 745-8542.

APRIL 7

WICKATURN — Collier High School will host a lecture entitled "Identity Issues and a Sense of Belonging in Adolescents," at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call (732) 946-4771, ext. 217.

Robert Graham is named executive director of NHA



NEWARK — Robert Graham was named Executive Director of the Newark Housing Authority by the agency's Board of Commissioners at its recent board meeting. Graham, who has been serving the housing authority as the Acting Executive Director for the past year, has been with the NHA for the last 10 years.

Noted author speaks at NCJU lecture series



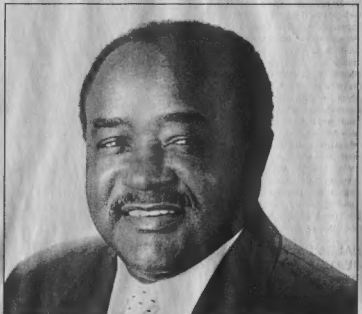
JERSEY CITY — From left, Dr. Carlos Hernandez, New Jersey City University President, guest speaker Witold Rybczynski, noted architect/social historian and Dr. Clyde Conell, an NCJU professor of English as a Second Language pose for a picture recently. Sponsored by NCJU's division of University Advancement, the University Lecture Series will feature jazz history.

AKA Beta Alpha Omega celebrates 66th Birthday



EAST ORANGE — From left, Catherine Greene, featured artist of East Orange; Etta Sample, co-chairman of the Fundraising Committee; Sylvia Cyrus, president of Beta Alpha Omega; and Alonzo Cartledge, proprietor of "A Sister's Art Gallery," enjoy the festivities at the 66th Birthday of Beta Alpha Omega Chapter.

Carl Ware recently made Coca-Cola board member



CHARLOTTE — Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated recently named Carl Ware to its Board of Directors. Ware is executive president, Global Public Affairs and Administration for the Coca-Cola Company. In addition, Ware served on the Atlanta City Council for six years and was president of the council from 1978 to 1979. He is very active in community affairs and was named senior vice president in 1986.

Black History Moments



Toni Morrison

Toni Morrison: novelist, educator, and editor, was the first black American to win the Nobel Prize in literature. The Swedish Academy called her a "literary artist of first rank," and one who "gives life to an essential aspect of American reality." "Informed of the honor, Morrison said that her work was inspired by "huge silences in literature, things that had never been articulated, printed or imagined and they were the silences about black girls, black women." Her novel, "Song of Solomon," published in 1977, won the National Book Critics Award for fiction that year, and in 1988 she won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for her work "Beloved." Toni was born in Lorraine, Ohio and graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1953. She received a master's degree in English from Cornell University in 1955.

Reach thousands in the black community and place your ad here! Call City News at (973) 642-4400 and speak to an advertisement representative about the various ways you can reach Black New Jersey.

Black quotes to live by...



"Organized education gives general information, but there are things we have to learn by ourselves."

Lauryn Hill, Grammy Award winning singer, actress (1975-)

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

CLINTON TO CHANGE FOOD STAMP RULES

WASHINGTON — President Clinton recently announced that he will make it easier for families who receive food stamps to own a decent car, the Chicago Tribune reported. "If you want more people to work, you've got to help them get to work," said Clinton, who realizes that many of the working poor lack reliable transportation to get to jobs that are far from their homes. Under existing food stamp rules, if a family has too many assets, it cannot receive food stamps, which are distributed through the national coupon program to subsidize grocery bills. The current eligibility rule states that food stamp recipients cannot own a car valued at more than \$4,650.

Clinton will replace the existing dollar limit with an equation that will allow families with a small amount of equity in their cars to qualify for food stamps, in spite of the total value of the vehicle. The White House estimates the new rule will help 150,000 people own a car over five years.

RANGEL SAYS BUSH OWES AN APOLOGY

NEW YORK — Congressman Charles Rangel said that the apology to Clinton by Republican Presidential hopeful George Bush was not enough. "An apology to Catholics was needed, not an apology to Jews," Rangel said. "Blacks and Jews have also been offended by Bush's failure to denounce the racist policies of Bob Jones University and its similar stance toward the people associated with his campaign. Black people are due an apology because Bob Jones University has an official policy against interracial dating which is clearly aimed at Black students." Rangel said he was similarly outraged that people in the Bush campaign had supporters have made "sneering comments about Jews that Bush has refused to even repudiate, much less apologize for."

BALTIMORE URGES DEATH PENALTY MORATORIUM

BALTIMORE, MD (NPA) — Baltimore City Council overwhelmingly passed a resolution urging a moratorium on executions in Maryland recently. The city is the eleven-jurisdiction nationwide to urge such a halt to executions. The City Council of Takoma Park, MD joined Baltimore, unanimously passing its own moratorium resolution. Earlier this month, Philadelphia and San Francisco took the same action. Other municipalities urging a moratorium include Mt. Rainier, MD; Charlottesville, VA; New Haven, CT; and Chapel Hill, Carleton, Durham, and Orange County (all NC).

CLAYTON COMMENDS CLINTON FOR SEEKING DISTASTER FUNDS FOR NORTH CAROLINA

WASHINGTON, DC — Congresswoman Eita M. Clayton (D-NC) commended President Clinton for including an additional \$252 million for North Carolina in his Fiscal Year 2000 supplemental budget request. The additional funding will increase funding to almost \$2.2 billion the which is available to help eastern North Carolina recover from the devastation caused by unprecedented flooding last fall. The additional amount includes \$42 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture for housing programs. These programs include low-income housing loans for affordable rental housing in rural communities in eastern North Carolina, rental assistance for tenants who will occupy the newly constructed units, and housing vouchers for families displaced from their homes by the floods. The proposed funding also includes \$15 million in emergency loans to study the feasibility of various flood damage reduction options for flood-prone areas. These options may include additional structural improvements to the dike that was constructed in 1985 to protect the town from floodwaters of the Tar River.

YOUTH URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL STATE POLITIES

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Black leaders encouraged minority youth today to become involved in guiding the state's future during the annual NAACP Day at the Statehouse. Leaders of the NAACP and about 400 Kansas young people met with legislators and learned about the state's political system. Gilbert Hammond, state lobbyist for the NAACP, said he wants to encourage black youth to become involved in Kansas politics. "It was a real eye-opener for black kids," Hammond said. "You didn't see but a handful of blacks. We decided that there weren't enough black faces being shown in Kansas." Gov. Bill Graves said Kansas needs to invest in its youth. He said diversity should be represented daily in legislative decisions. Graves also encouraged youth to become involved in government.

Selma 35 years later: Here's the black vote?

WASHINGTON, DC (NPA) — At press time over 10,000 marchers converged on the Florida state capital to send a clear message to Gov. Jeb Bush, (R-FL) regarding their anger over his dismantling of affirmative action programs in that state and just what he could do with his replacement concept, One Florida.

As they delivered their message, the underlying current recalled the spirit of the voting rights movement and the pinnacle moment at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL in March 1965. Marchers made the poignant connection between the Voting Rights Act-passed shortly after 600 marchers were assaulted and some killed in 1965 and today's affirmative action roll-back efforts. Through the day, marchers continued the theme: we will not go back.

The 35th anniversary commemoration of the march in Selma last week gave many Americans reason to pause and reflect. It also raised concerns about today's status of African Americans, the vote, equality and the political process. As a time when America's social climate seems toward violence and the political process and economic divides are explosive issues, the March, attended by President Clinton and respected civil rights leaders, was aimed at celebrating America's diversity and the hope for a future of balanced opportunities for all.

"What those people did 35 years ago gave us the black and brown officials that we have today," says Director of the President's Initiative for One America, Ben Johnson. "There were very few black elected officials across the country before that march which catalyzed the Voting Rights Act. Today, there are thousands of minority elected officials. We could not be empowered in this way without them."

Indeed, President Clinton made clear that such action as the address of the marchers in Selma. "Without Selma," Clinton said "Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton would never have become



Many gathered to celebrate the famous march to Selma, pictured here, that insured the Black vote.

President of the United States."

Johnson relates Clinton's presence at the event to the bright, new direction that the nation has the potential to embrace. "He changed the direction of the presidency by attending the march," Johnson explained. "No sitting president has ever made such a profound move toward embracing the significance of the civil rights movement at a historic site such as this. It shows recognition of the potential closeness between blacks and whites. We're not there yet. But looking at all those faces coming over that bridge makes the statement that were on our way."

According to Heather Grey, communications director for the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, the statement made at the March affected the younger participants who have no recollection of the civil rights era.

"It is so important for young people to remember the significance of this struggle," Grey says. "People truly died for the rights we have."

Grey points out the Voting Rights museum, the memorial and other monuments erected to ensure the impact and memory of the sacrifice made for the sake of equality. She talks easily about witnessing South Africa's first open elections in 1994 and the parallels in the levels of commitment and sacrifice to achieve the simple right to contribute in choosing the nation's leaders. But she pauses when asked about whether black voting power stands today-not to say, but where to begin.

"There are so many new issues that play into where we are with voting today," Grey says. "It's amazing to me that it takes so much money to run for office. That excludes so many people from the process. It's also frustrating that we only have two parties that dominate the political scene. I'm glad that there are

a few alternatives out there. But before there are so many issues that don't get to the table because of the lack of diversity in the structure."

Beyond general challenges to the political process, today Black communities are experiencing a host of roadblocks that affect civil and human rights. The impact, for example, of the felony record that is uniquely given to black offenders convicted of possession of crack cocaine strips the offenders of the right to vote. As a result, Black males disproportionately lose the right to vote.

"There's no doubt that we have much more work to do," Johnson says. "But we have to first look to ourselves. We have to get into this process at the front end instead of at the end when we are reeling from the blows of the effects of legislation. We know that the laws hit us harder. We have to get into the process before they pass these laws. We have to live up to the gift people died to give us. Vote."

Harrington to represent Garden State on NAACP National Board



Elaine Harrington

PATERSON — Elaine C. Harrington, a 1961 Graduate of Tuskegee Institute (University) has been duly elected to the National Board of Directors of the NAACP. She was officially seated on Saturday, February 19, during the Annual Meeting of the NAACP, which convened in Washington, DC.

Continuing her long-term role as a civil rights leader and activist, she recapitulated her early years with the Tuskegee Civic Association, NAACP, Greenwood Baptist Church, campus life at Tuskegee, and many other organizations that prepared her for leadership. She stated, "I was privileged to observe some of the most dynamic leaders of the contemporary civil rights movement."

Ms. Harrington has served the NAACP as a branch president, regional chairperson, and most recently, the president of the New Jersey State Conference of NAACP branches. She is also a current member of the National Resolutions Committee of the NAACP.

In accepting this new challenge, Harrington noted, "The solid leadership foundation which undergirded me in Tuskegee, Macon County, and Tuskegee University truly set me on course for this national position of membership on the top board of the NAACP signals a broader scope and arena for positive contributions to the civil and human rights agenda of all people."

Supreme Court's hiring, lack of judgeships still shameful

WASHINGTON, DC — This spring, the U.S. Supreme Court will select some of the nation's top law students to serve as their personal law clerks.

If recent history is any indication, few of them will be blacks or other people of color. More than a year after the national NAACP and others demonstrated at the court's front door, growing black criticism of judicial racism, including the lack of proportional hiring of Supreme Court clerks of color, has continued.

At issue is not only the lack of non-white court law clerks, but the dearth of people of color appointed to state and federal court judgeships—particularly the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals during a period of rapid and expanding prison construction and disproportionate black imprisonment.

The court may have hired two blacks and three Asians as part of its 34-member law clerk staff for this year's session, which began last fall, but it still would be guilty of discrimination if it was a private company, said NAACP president and CEO Kwame Mfume. He was arrested outside the court in the fall of 1998 when about 1,000 demonstrators protested its then all-white clerk staff.

The clerks, appointed personally by the Supreme Court justices, assist the justices in the cases that they review and, ultimately, make rulings. A Supreme Court clerkship is a prestigious appointment for the nation's top law students, often leading to prominent posts after graduation.

There have been few people of color hired as law clerks in the court's 200-plus-year history. For example, Native Americans have yet to be appointed.

Of the 462 law clerks hired by the current justices, only nine of them have been black, five Hispanic, and 18 Asian. Women only make up 25 percent of the appointments with 105.

"The court has the responsibility to interpret the nation's equal employment laws, and those laws should apply to the court itself," Mfume said on the NAACP's website. Harold D. Pope, president of the National Bar Association,

NAACP President Kwame Mfume

the group representing black lawyers, said he wasn't satisfied with the new clerk hirings. "It's a start, but it's not over," he vowed.

Alton Maddox Jr., a New York-based civil rights activist and former lawyer, emphasized the clerk issue is important because the briefs the clerks write for the judges has a large amount of influence over how a judge views a case.

"Judges don't take these jobs to do a lot of work," he claimed. "The kind of opinions that are written take a lot of work from people other than judges."

Last year, the NAACP joined the presidents of the national black, Hispanic, Native American and Asian Pacific lawyer organizations and the National Organization of Women in sending a letter to the court requesting more diversity.

The target of Mfume's campaign is Chief Justice William Rehnquist, to whom Mfume had requested a meeting. Mfume said Rehnquist has hired only one Hispanic law clerk since joining the court in 1972.

Rehnquist's most public response to the issue came in a 1988 letter to three African-American members of Congress. In the letter, a copy of which Rehnquist sent to Mfume as a response to his meeting request, the chief justice said that it would be "inappropriate for any justice to seek guidance from special constituencies."

Pope said the NBA has created a task force to examine the issue, while it and other law groups, such as the predominantly white American Bar Association, plan to keep pressure on the court.

REFORM OF OPPORTUNITY.

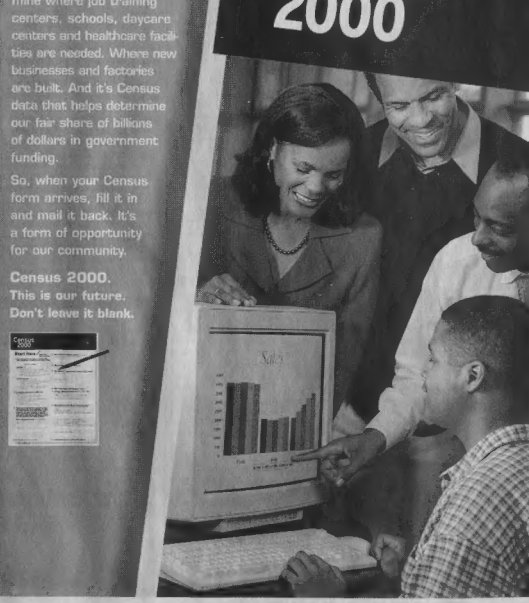
Census 2000 is an opportunity to help our community grow.

The information gathered in Census 2000 can help determine where job training centers, schools, daycare centers and healthcare facilities are needed. Where new businesses and factories are built. And it's Census data that helps determine our fair share of billions of dollars in government funding.

So, when your Census form arrives, fill it in and mail it back. It's a form of opportunity for our community.

Census 2000. This is our future. Don't leave it blank.

United States Census 2000



A lesson to live by

When was the last time you tested your honesty? Do you consider yourself an honest person? Do you find it easier to be dishonest than honest? Deceit, deception, being untruthful, and disingenuous all point to dishonest characteristics. A good case scenario, my brother, whom I love dearly, used to take special pride in admitting his dishonesty, when it came to money. If a cashier gave him over and above board in change, he marveled in what he considered their loss and his gain. If he were to ever find a wallet filled with money, and thank God he never did, he made it crystal clear that the money would be his. It really used to bother me that he applied such unethical thinking to his repertoire of things. We were not raised to be dishonest people. But then something happened — one day he purchased a money order to pay his rent, but failed to take the money order out. He lost the money order in a restaurant, and when he discovered it was missing, he automatically knew the money was history, because of his own stinking thinking. Not wanting to believe that his hard earned money had vanished like that prompted him, in a last ditch effort, to return to the restaurant. To his surprise, someone had turned the money order in to the owners and he was able to retrieve it and pay his rent. The honest person who turned in the money order manifested something in my brother that he could not find within himself to do — be honest!

Make the Census 2000 count

By Velmaetta Montgomery
State Senator

It happens every 10 years. Some of us don't know why, so some of us don't participate. It's almost everything in our lives from politics to education funding to representation in Congress. I am talking about the census of our nation's population — a vehicle that has been used for creating a statistical portrait of our country since 1790.

Every 10 years, the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis conducts a complete accounting of every person in the country — no matter where they live, how old they are or what they speak. On April 1, our nation's population will again be counted, and it's important that you include yourself in the count.

A big reason your participation is so critical is the money and services flow into communities based on demographic data obtained from the census. Community leaders use the census for everything from planning schools and building roads to providing recreational opportunities and managing health care services. The data is even used to determine political representation. For example, following the last census, New York State lost three seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. This was due to a steady population shift from the Northeast to areas in the South and West, and also because a significant number of New Yorkers did not stand up to be counted.

When the census was last taken in 1990, the mail response was only 69 percent. That means our population was significantly undercounted. Remember, the government's ability to plan, fund

and implement effective programs depends on all of us. Money is distributed to individual states and communities on an as needed basis, which is determined, in part, on census information. The decision makers need to know what New Yorkers need if we don't tell them, so we must all fill out the census forms and mail them back, or cooperate with the census takers who will visit many New Yorkers within the week to come. If you have children, please don't forget to include them. Children are one of the largest undercounted groups.

About a week before Census takers arrive, you will receive a questionnaire by mail. Census takers will deliver mail back to the households. You should complete the form, which will be easy to read and simple to fill out, and mail back to the U.S. Census Bureau as soon as possible. Questionnaires are available in several different languages. Language assistance guides will also be available to help you fill out English questionnaires.

There is no reason to worry about your response being made public. The law protects everyone's privacy. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with others, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, police and the military. Anyone who breaks the law can receive up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines.

When your census form arrives, please be a part of the count. Do your part to ensure that New York/New Jersey receives its fair share of federal funds. All of us who live here depend on it.

Double standards

By Michael Blackburn

I had the opportunity to visit the Northern State Prison in Newark.

There I met a young man who has been incarcerated for the past nine years after being charged as an adult at the age of 15.

Personally, I do not think youth should be charged as adults. They should be charged as youth.

A bigger picture to look at and ponder, however, is the public sentiment that youth are being charged as adults and therefore they should be treated as such.

Nearly all venues of society are statutorily denied to these same youth under the guise that youth aren't responsible enough for public or social issues.

This young man could not vote, drive, join a fraternal order, run for public office or rent an apartment at the age of 15, yet he was old enough to appreciate the complexities of the justice and penal system.

He was not of legal age to be married, but he was old enough to be in a state "plantation" or prison.

In the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution sanctions slavery for those who are "duly convicted of a crime," and the attitude of this country is that of Pharaoh when he killed off the male children.

Sentencing the children of this same police officer to black to prison for life is social killing.

If the youth are acting like adults, then open up the society to them. If it sounds absurd to me, 11, 12 and 13-year-olds to be mayor, governor, president or congressman, then the absurdity of the current judicial and penal attitudes of charging and imprisoning the same children as adults is equally absurd.

If you're lowering the ages in criminal justice, then you're lowering them in civil law as well. God is Seer of what you do.

So wait. I too am waiting.

By Joe Williams III

NPPA — The children are like zombies, controlled, protected, used as pawns in a world economic system that has greed and selfishness as its foundation.

Many of the schools are similar to youth prisons: young minds being wasted. School rooms are just a way to keep kids off the streets. Even the "smart kids" don't think their way out of a "wet paper bag."

The whole philosophy of the educational system is to get enough information into the head to grow up and buy a car, a house, and raise kids.

It has nothing to do with uniting humanity, or developing a world based on a collective will, nor does it address the spiritual essence of nature.

It is about making zombies to live in certain communities; like certain people wear certain clothes; and be judged by how big your bank account develops. It is true: the more toys you have in society, the more respect you receive. If you are poor, you are born into wealth, you can be an idiot and still demand the respect of a king.

Social values within the system is indicative of how much you value "stuff."

Many of our young people are in prisons because they are under the impression that they need a diamond ring or a large car to be

accepted in society, or by their peers.

The children who do make it through the educational system are often depressed on their jobs; in relationships just because of the collective property; and look down on anyone who makes less money than them.

"If you train a child to be a doctor, and that doctor turns away a dying man because he was poor or broke, then you haven't created a doctor; you have created a machine."

seives.

When I was in a store the other day and watched a woman switch a price tag on a watch as her young daughter and grandson watched. At best, she saved \$20. God, what is the message?

Most people in society don't have a social or civic responsibility.

I asked the question: if education doesn't

create rebels, then what good is it. Change should be the premise of all education. Education is a means and method of understanding and impacting on our environment. It should teach us to be investigators, not like the sheep.

I will hear no evil, say no evil, see no evil, or for that matter, see or hear or say no good, as well.

If you train a child to be a doctor, and that doctor turns away a dying man because he was poor or broke then you haven't created a doctor, you have created a machine.

If you create a supermarket owner who chooses to dump food rather than serve the homeless, then you have developed a "thing."

My grandmother used to say, "a fool with an education is just an educated fool."

I understand the dilemma of education. As an instructor, or educator, it is not in the interest of the institution to teach students to "question authority." It is painful for a "professional" to admit that, "Yes, I may be wrong."

So, we grade kids with A's to F's and the F's are locked out of society, no matter how much talent they may have in other areas.

As an educator, I believe the real ruler of society is that if you want to get somewhere in this material world, "Study for your tests and keep your mouth shut."

This way for black empowerment

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

Nothing in particular went wrong for John McCain in the South Carolina Republican primary. It's just that he went right—in both senses of the word—for George Bush.

McCain's poll show that 35 percent of the South Carolina electorate were part of the Christian Right and 61 percent of all voters described themselves as politically conservative. McCain accounted for 60 percent of the voters in this open primary.

Bush significantly outperformed McCain among all these groups and demonstrated that the conventional wisdom, which held that Republican primaries are won by running "to the right," is intact—at least in South Carolina.

Bush is trying to challenge that orthodoxy and run as a political reformer, a campaign theme that may turn out to be far more viable in the general election in November than it is in the primary. Unfortunately for McCain, he may not get the chance to show the extent to which that is true.

Still, he and the political reform constituency have turned the Republican primary from what was supposed to be a foregone conclusion into a highly competitive race for the nomination. Bush's endgame effort to cast himself as a reformer may not abate factor in his win, except insofar as his "Reformer with Results" slogan was part of a strategy to undercut McCain's credibility as an anti-establishment reformer.

Bush hammered his opponent with negative ads that tied him to the "Iroh Triangle"—special interests, lobbyists and legislators—that McCain passionately campaigns against. By election day, Bush had sufficient momentum to win white enforcement. McCain's to make the difference. And while Bush's ardent pursuit of the right wing could come back to haunt him in November, it's still a long way to Thibault—the site of the Republican National Convention.

While the battle for the Republican nomination is a battle between the emergent

movement for political reform and the tenacious social conservatives — shaped substantially by the invigorated independent voter — the Democratic primary is framed in different terms. For the Democrats there is one issue of importance: Bill Clinton.

Healthcare, basketball and Buddhist temples and a vote for Al Gore is an indication of Clinton and one for Bill Bradley is negation. Bradley's political reform — such as they are — are overwhelmed by this referendum. And there are plenty of Democrats who support a reform agenda, the captivating issue of this race for the presidency is the president himself. With a 60 percent approval rating and a robust economy, he is a hard non-candidate to beat.

If Republican voters are deciding whether to buck the Iroh Triangle and Democratic voters are deciding whether to turn away from the master of triangulation, the Reform Party is in a fight for its political life. The issue here is whether the petty politicking that made headlines last week will undercut the party's ability to respond to the public call for structural political reform. For the moment, McCain has stolen Reform's thunder while the party has been addled by a series of fratricidal power struggles.

How prepared is Reform to move beyond the bloodletting and seize the moment? The party's newly elected interim chair, Pat Choate believes we are ready. He and I have discussed and agree on the centrality of Reform's connection to the reform crusade. It was the explosion of the populist revolt against the special interests that created the Reform Party in its first place. Though barely over two years old, it is already time for the party to return to the roots.

Pat Buchanan, now the clear frontrunner for reform nomination, can play a role in this regrouping. Buchanan and I discussed this issue in some detail a month ago. He plans to re-emerge after Titanic Tuesday, once the major primaries are over, with a concentrated effort to pick up the themes of the need for structural political reform.

Among these is the conduct of the Presi-

dential elections themselves. Buchanan, the Reform Party, and the independent voter face a formidable battle to open up the televised presidential debates in October to place more than just the Republican and Democratic nominee. The debates are sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates.

Right now, a new NBC/Wall Street Journal poll shows that 53 percent of the American people think the Reform Party candidate should not have to earn 15 percent in the national polls as a prerequisite for inclusion in the debates. Once the major party primaries are over, public debate about — and the legal challenges to — the debate rules will become an important focus of national political dialogue.

The Reform Party's mission is to spur and agitate that dialogue, while establishing that power sharing arrangements under Choate's guidance can govern the party's internal business.

As an independent who fought for political reform long before there was a Reform Party — and who may be doing so long after there is — I believe fervently in that agenda. There are some in the Reform Party who do not share that belief nor that history. But anyone who is attending to the McCain March '78, but the drumbeating against the movement which drives it also drives public support for political independence.

McCain may or may not be finished by March '78, but the drumbeating against the special interest and the two party oligarchy is just getting underway.

Lenora B. Fulani twice ran for President of the U.S. as an independent, making history in 1988 when she became the first woman and African American to get on the ballot in all fifty states. Dr. Fulani is currently a leading activist in the Reform Party and chairs the Committee for a Unified Independent Party. She can be reached by phone at 800-288-3322 or e-mail at fulanireform@earthlink.net. Fax: 212-803-899. Mail: 225 Broadway, Suite 2010, New York, NY 10007.

How many black lives for the gamble

By Shabaka

The recent decision of the Amadou Diallo case in New York State reflects a state of relations between white law enforcement and black communities that is consistent all over this country. Diallo, an unarmed African man standing at the door of his own apartment building, had his life violently stolen when a barrage of 41 bullets were fired at him by four white police officers.

These same police officers, when charged with intentional murder in the Bronx, requested a change of venue to Albany, New York for their trial. Take note that the black population in Albany is 9 percent.

Did the change of venue effect the outcome of the trial? It probably did.

The crucial question is whether it impeded justice. The fact is, white police officers who do not live in the black urban communities invade them everyday. It is these outlanders that their "zero tolerance," quick draw mentalities that act as overseers in our communities.

Yet consistently, when their actions cause the black community to question their presence, they quickly run back to their own communities completely unwilling to be judged by the same communities they have claimed to serve. Should we have those who have no ties to our communities "policing" us? I don't think so. If white law enforcement

Did the change of venue effect the outcome of the trial?

refuses to be held accountable in our black communities then maybe they should stay out of our black communities.

Illinois' moratorium on the death penalty raises a legitimate question of life and death that black people all over the United States

should be paying close attention.

Putting aside the moral considerations of whether intentional murder is anyone acceptable when done by the state and a legal institution compared to a crime with a handgun. And putting aside, for the moment, the unseemable tragedy of innocent lives lost to inaccurate convictions, let's discuss the real problem that black people face concerning the death penalty. Let's discuss racism. Any black person who has had the misfortune of dealing with the law knows that institutionalized racism informs every aspect of the criminal justice system.

Do we really believe that it will be any different when it pertains to the death penalty. From targeting black communities, to selective prosecution, to unfair disparities in sentencing, the facts have consistently proven that institutional racism is a victim of racially discriminatory practices.

We do not have to be scholars to realize that this is not a just black people should pursue the path in to systemic black people punishment.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22

NEWARK — The Small Business Association sponsors a program for military veterans. 10 a.m. — 12 noon. For further information call 973-645-2434.

NEWARK — The Regional Business Partnership is sponsoring its Annual Real Estate Auction. Free. Pre-registration required. For more information call Barbara Kaufman at 973-242-4219.

THURSDAY MARCH 23

NEWARK — The U.S. Small Business Administration hosts "Computer Troubleshooting." 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Free. For further information call (973) 645-2434.

UNION — Kean University hosts "Business Opportunities through Electronic Commerce I." For further information call (908) 527-1166.

UNION — Kean University will hold the class "Business Opportunities through Electronic Commerce II." For further information call (908) 527-1166.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

NEWARK — The Regional Business Partnership is sponsoring their annual Museum Reception and Dinner at the Newark Museum. Reception at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. For further information call 973-242-4203.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

NEWARK — The Regional Business Partnership is hosting a Cruise Aboard The Spirit of New Jersey. Board ship at 4:30 p.m., ship leaves at 5:30 p.m. For further information call (973) 645-2434.

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

NEWARK — The SCORE Association presents the seminar "Starting and Managing Your Own Business." 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information call (973) 645-2434.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

NEW YORK — A Power Breakfast Seminar will be held at Manhattan's Roosevelt Hotel. Call (888) 232-1110.

CPA's top ten list for uncovering tax breaks

ROSELAND — You don't have to look far for ways to cut your tax bill, advises the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA). Following is a top ten list to guide you in uncovering thousands of dollars in tax breaks you can claim on your 1999 tax return.

1. YOUR CHILDREN

A significant tax break is available to parents: They may claim a child tax credit of up to \$400 for each qualifying child under the age of 17 as of December 31 of the tax year. The credit is phased out for adjusted gross incomes (AGI) starting at \$110,000 if married filing jointly or \$75,000 if single.

The amount of the credit is reduced by \$50 for each \$1,000 of AGI above the thresholds stated above. In 1999, the tax credit is worth up to \$500. If you work and pay someone to care for your children, you may also qualify for a dependent care credit. This credit applies to child-care expenses of up to \$2,400 for one qualifying child, or \$4,800 for two or more qualifying children. The amount of the tax credit ranges from 20 percent to 30 percent of child-care expenses, depending on AGI.

2. YOUR DEPENDENTS

You can claim a dependency exemption of \$2,700 for each qualified dependent. Generally, a dependent must be a relative of an individual who lives with you for the entire year as a member of your household and who does not file a joint tax return. In addition, you must provide more than half of a person's total support during the calendar year and that person must have less than \$2,700 of gross income for the year. However, the gross income test does not apply to a child under the age of 19 or a full-time student under age 24. The dependent must also be a citizen of the United States or his/her relative. (Be aware that phaseout and other rules apply.)

3. YOUR CARE COSTS

If you're a business owner, in 1999 you can deduct 80 percent of the cost of your health insurance premiums from AGI. Taxpayers who have incurred significant unreimbursed medical expenses can also deduct those that exceed 7.5 percent of their adjusted gross income as an itemized deduction.

4. YOUR CHARITABLE GIFTS

Whether you've made gifts of cash or property to qualified charitable organizations, you can claim an itemized deduction on your tax return. If you gave appreciated capital gain property held for more than one year, you may generally deduct the current fair market value of the property at the time of the gift, limited to 30 percent of your AGI.

5. YOUR HOME

Homeownership may also open the door to a number of tax breaks. Mortgage interest and real estate and property taxes are all deductible.

6. COLLEGE EXPENSES

Two education credits against federal income taxes are available. The first is the Hope credit worth up to \$1,500 a year (100 percent of the first \$1,000 of educational expenses and 50 percent of the next \$1,000). It may be claimed to defray the costs of the first two years of tuition and fees for you, your spouse, or your dependent enrolled in a degree program at a college or vocational school. As an alternative to the Hope credit, you may elect to use the Lifetime Learning Credit. This credit is equal to 20 percent of the first \$5,000 of qualifying expenses, up to a maximum of \$1,000 per family. A qualifying student is not required to be in a degree program. Be aware that both credits phase out for couples

filing jointly with AGIs between \$80,000 and \$100,000, and for singles with AGIs between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

7. INTEREST COSTS

While consumer interest on items like credit card debt is not deductible, you can deduct three other forms of interest: interest on up to \$1 million of home mortgages, interest on up to \$100,000 of home equity loans and for 1999, up to \$1,500 in interest on student loans. The student loan interest deduction applies to the first 60 months in which interest payments are required and is subject to phase-outs. Be aware that mortgage and home equity interest are itemized deductions. Student loan interest, on the other hand, is a deduction from gross income to arrive at AGI.

8. UNPAID LOANS

When you lend money to friends or family and you're not repaid, you can recover part of the bad debt through a tax deduction. These are typically considered non-business debts and are deducted on Schedule D of your tax return as a short-term capital loss. You can deduct this from other capital gains if any, and \$3,000 of other income. Any balance is deductible as a capital loss carry-over in future years.

9. BUSINESS-RELATED MEALS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Dine out for business reasons, bring along your spouse and the spouse of your client or customer if there is a clear business purpose, and you may be entitled to a tax deduction, provided you conducted business with the person you were entertaining. Such unreimbursed business entertainment and meal expenses are considered miscellaneous deductions and are deductible to the extent that they and other miscellaneous expenses exceed two percent of your AGI.

10. TAX HELP

Fees paid to tax advisors and preparers also fall into the category of miscellaneous itemized expenses. Only those amounts that exceed two percent of your adjusted gross income are deductible.

The NJSCPA recommends consulting a Certified Public Accountant for guidance in all state and federal tax matters. To locate a CPA to assist with your tax preparation or other financial matters, visit the NJSCPA Online Referral Service, Find-A-CPA, at www.njcpa.org/india.htm. For additional general tax information, visit the NJSCPA Online Tax Guide at www.njcpa.org/taxguide.

Blackonomics

In Collective and Cooperative Economics Middle East Style

James Clingman

In my book, "Economic Empowerment or Economic Enslavement: We Have a Choice" there is a discussion regarding "manufactured oil prices" and some of the reasons being put out on such of the time. It draws the reader's attention to how easy it is for those in control of various facets of our economy to increase their profits and to make their lives even more comfortable - anytime they want.

We see it now with the rising fuel costs. People in cold climates must choose between warming their homes and putting food on the table. Over-the-road truckers are faced with skyrocketing diesel fuel costs. Automobile owners cringe each time they pull up to the pump. Where it used to be a fill-up, it's now more of a half-tank.

What we are facing with these rising costs is another example of people working together to improve their financial position. They are working cooperatively to strengthen their collective economic position. Why? Because the odds are billions or not is irrelevant; they are in control of their resources and they determine what others will pay for those resources.

A few little countries in the Middle East got together and realized they could control much of the world by simply coming in concert. A few little countries, several of which the United States sent men to war to fight and die for, got together and decided how much oil they are going to produce and, thereby, control the land that produces larger countries of the world. Well, that's what collective economics is all about.

Now, the planning aspect of cooperative economics is something each of us can witness personally at least once each week when we pull up to the pump. We should learn from it. A few small countries working together have brought a big bad trucker to his knees, caused them to drive to our nation's capital in protest, and set up "rolling road blocks" to force their expressway.

This example of collective and cooperative economics, while it is not one that benefits all, does benefit those who participate in it, and Black people should use their own resources to develop our own cooperative economic structure. We should assess our resources, both intellectual and financial, and establish programs and procedures that will benefit our people. It's a matter of controlling what we

have and doing it out at our discretion, not at the request of someone else.

You can see it with OPEC states. They do not seem to care that some of our people are starving for their money, or that some of them came back home with illnesses that will eventually kill them, or that our people suffer their precious oil by putting out those oil-well fires. That does not matter when it comes to the money. They understand that what they have is power and they can exercise that power anytime they wish to do so.

An analogy can be drawn between what OPEC is doing and what Black people could be doing in this country. If we were psychologically free and really decided to pursue our true economic freedom, we could bring a few folks to their knees as well. We could transform what is now an insignificant group of consumers into a powerful band of economic distributors, and retailers.

We could wreck havoc on the corporations that take our dollars for granted. We could cause an economic tidal wave rather than the small ripples we currently see as a result of our half-hearted boycotts and demands for apologies, organizational payoffs, token employees, and all of the other shallow tactics we deploy.

We could be the OPEC of this country if we would use our half-baked brains to build our own businesses and to determine the prices of our products rather than having always to submit to the price-gouging of other businesses.

If we took control of our resources and worked cooperatively for the good of one another, withdrawing our dollars from those who hold us in disdain, we could control our economic future.

If we would deny our dollars, not for one day, but for one year or more, to those business that exploit our nation on a daily basis and return virtually nothing, we could be in control.

Now, you've undoubtedly heard what happened to National Gas Day? The trouble with that campaign was that it lasted for only one day. Now, as of 9/30/2000, we are going to have National Black Out Day. I will support it, but will it do any good? (I've simply returned to our normal buying habits the very next day.)

Take a lesson from the little group of housewives who are saving times jobs and make fun. They are demonstrating the purest form of collective and cooperative economics. They are using us pay dearly because they are in control of their resources. Black people should do the same.

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The Economy and African Americans

By William E. Spriggs
Director, Research and Public Policy
National Urban League, Inc.

Economics is the study of who gets what. One of the important "whats" is who gets a job; since most Americans need a job for the income to pay rent and buy food.

The first Friday of every month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, a branch of Secretary Alexis Herman's Department of Labor, releases the Employment Situation for the previous month. So this past Friday, the unemployment numbers for February were released. The unemployment rate for African Americans reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics decreased to 7.8 percent in February, from 8.2 percent in January. This was part of good news all around for African Americans in the report.

The share of African Americans in the labor force who were employed, or actively looking for work, continued to climb and set new records. After setting a record in January, African American labor force participation climbed from 65.4 percent to 66 percent. And again, the surge was led by African American men whose labor force participation climbed to 74.2 percent. African American women continue to have higher participation in the labor force than white women. But now, African American men are slowly pulling even with the higher labor force participation rate of white men. So, overall, the 65.9 percent labor force participation rate of African Americans is not significantly different from the 67.8 percent labor force participation rate for whites. This is a clear sign that African Americans believe this

economic expansion and labor market are unusually good.

Another key number is the share of African Americans who are employed. The employment-to-population ratio set a new record at 61.7 percent, just a little over its previous record of 61.6 percent set in January. So, a little more than three of every five African Americans over age 16 was employed during part of the month of February. Again, this was because of higher labor force participation and employment for African American men.

This month, the Census Bureau mailed to every household a notice that the Census for the 2000 Census would arrive soon. Though the Census is conducted every ten years, it forms the basis for almost all national data in the years between the Census. That means it is the basis for the way the monthly Current Population Survey is done, and the way the numbers from that monthly survey are used. It is the basis for the Current Population Survey that gives us the labor force numbers reported each month.

So, the national African American organizations have signed a partnership agreement with the Census Bureau to try and make Census 2000 more accurate than ever. And, for the first time, the Census Bureau has agreed to make sure that everyone knows the importance of the Census. The data collected is used by people at local governments to draw political districts for city council races, state legislative districts and school board districts. They are also used to decide where federal dollars go for many federal programs. Those decisions, based on the

direct use of the data, affect everyone for ten years.

But, the numbers affect us indirectly too. An undercount in the Census affects the way that polls and national surveys use their information to tell us what the survey results mean. The problem with the Census undercount is that it is not equal for all groups. Disproportionately, minorities, and particularly, women and children, are undercounted. So, the share of African Americans in the population is greater than reported in the Census. For instance television shows and newspapers that African Americans watch and read have a larger audience than marketing researchers show, since they must use the Census as a baseline to decide how many people they are truly representing.

It also creates problems for getting labor force numbers. The monthly Current Population Survey must use "weights" to decide how to relate the sample of households that are surveyed to the nation's population. In large part, the "weights" come from information about the population that the Census uses every ten years. The disproportionate undercount of African Americans affects the weights given to the sample of African Americans in the Current Population Survey.

Thus, indeed, the undercount distorts the monthly unemployment figures. The unemployment figures also decide how many federal dollars will be spent. Just make sure you are counted, and tell others how important it is that you respond to the Census.

Religion

March 22 — March 28, 2000

Prayer Corner



The Lord's Baseball Game

Bob and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team.

The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied 0-to-0, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs.

They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate whose name was Love.

Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because Love never fails.

The next batter was named Faith who also got a single because Faith works with Love.

The next batter up was named Godly Wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass. Ball one.

Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked, because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws. The bases were loaded.

The Lord then turned to Bob and told him He was now going to bring in His star player.

Up to the plate stepped Grace.

Bob said, "He sure doesn't look like much."

Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch.

To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen.

But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let every few get by.

He went up for the ball, but it went through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; then it continued over the fence for a home run!

The Lord's team won. The Lord then asked Bob if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. Bob answered that he did not know why.

The Lord explained, "If your Love, Faith and Wisdom had won the game you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, Faith and Wisdom will get you on base, but only My Grace can get you home. My Grace is the one thing Satan cannot steal."

Please

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Religion

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'Race, Religion & Racism:

A Bold Encounter With Division in the Church'

LOS ANGELES — The most racial place in the world is the church in America, declares a new and illuminating book by a man who reluctantly accepted the call by God to stand up to the issue of racism. However, Frederick K.C. Price, a highly successful television minister and pastor at the largest sanctuary in the Western Hemisphere the Crenshaw Christian Center Faith Dome — faced up to the task and the ensuing television series kept much of the nation mesmerized for a year and a half.

An extraordinary personal turn of events catalyzed Dr. Price into taking the public stand against racism that led first to the television series and then to writing this captivating book entitled, "Race, Religion & Racism: A Bold Encounter With Division in the Church." Dr. Price admits that initially he was reluctant to deal with the race issue, though it was an assignment from God. A tape of a questionable teaching by a white minister friend proved to be the catalyst. Among other things, that minister's teaching warned parents in his mostly white congregation that if they did not want their kids involved in interracial dating that it was up to them to control it.

"We can be friends with everybody, we are not prejudiced, but we are not going to date this group of people," said the minister referring to black people. "It's not in our culture to do it. We're not going to do it. If you want to, then it's a problem with that, that's fine."

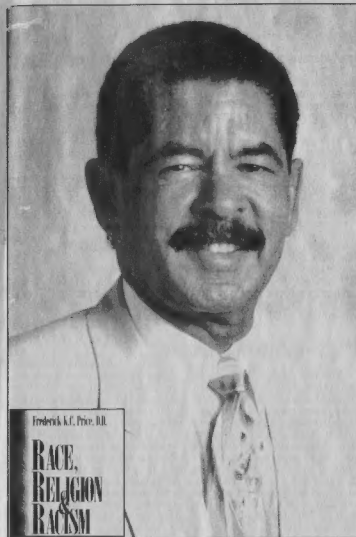
Dr. Price writes of a subsequent meeting with the minister-unannounced throughout the book but well known in the charismatic community-about concerns over the apparent racism in the message. Dr. Price later appealed to the minister's well-known father, himself a widely revered minister and Dr. Price's longtime mentor. The appeal was never answered. Ultimately, the relationship between Dr. Price and the two ministers was severed.

The Church's history is appalling, says Dr. Price. "The reasons are not hard to find," he writes. "They have to do with America's whole attitude toward black culture, an attitude that is almost 400 years old."

Dr. Price reminds us, all men are made in the image of God.

But somehow the issue of man's worth have become confused with color, he points out. The presumption in America is that God, Adam and Jesus were all white, and that blacks and other somehow fit into another category.

Not so, says Dr. Price, as he systematically explores the myth of white superiority. Adam and Eve, he says, could not have been white. With only white genes, they could not have peopled the non-white nations of the world. And if there is one point on which both scientist and creationist agree, it is that all people stem from a single source. Based on the Genesis account, the larger point that Adam had to be a man of color. Another point that Dr. Price continues to drive home is "all flesh of men is the same."



Dr. Frederick K. Price is shown here with the cover of his book, "Race, Religion & Racism: A Bold Encounter With Division in the Church."

Elmwood United hosts ministry conference

EAST ORANGE— Elmwood United Presbyterian Church and the Office of Black Congregational Enhancement, Louisville, Kentucky, will host "Discipleship and Ministry Conference 2000, Empowering, Educating, and Equipping People for Spiritual Leadership." The event will take place March 21.

Discipleship and Ministry Conference 2000, Empowering, Educating, and Equipping People for Spiritual Leadership
March 31, at 6 p.m. through April 2, at 1 p.m.
135 Elmwood Avenue, East Orange

at 6 p.m. and end April 2, at 1 p.m. There will be workshops for everyone — adults, youth, Christian educators, church officers, lay ministers, pastors and worship leaders. This conference will be held at 135 Elmwood Avenue, East Orange. The requested donation for this event will be \$35, which will cover registration, continental breakfast, two workshops, materials and lunch. For further information, please call Cheryl Courtney, (973) 678-0055.

Founder of Xavier University canonized

By Bill Begstrom

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Pope John Paul II has approved sainthood for Katharine Drexel, a Philadelphia socialite who took a vow of poverty and devoted her fortune to helping poor blacks and American Indians.

Catholics everywhere, and especially the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, will rightfully rejoice at this great news," he said. The pope approved the action on Friday.

Drexel will be only the second American-born saint; the other is Sisters of Charity founder Elizabeth Ann Seton, canonized in 1975.

At the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, the order Drexel founded in 1891, the pope's decision was announced on a public address system in the quarters for the 140 nuns.

The Vatican confirmed Drexel's first miracle in 1988, curing Robert Gautherman of deafness. On Jan. 28, the pope credited Drexel with a second miracle — curing the deafness of 7-year-old Amanda "Amy" Wall. The girl's family had prayed to Drexel and touched objects that had belonged to her to Amanda's ears.

Drexel was born in 1858, the daughter of Francis Drexel

a banking magnate and business partner of J.P. Morgan. The family distributed food, clothing and money three times a week from its mansion.

At 30, Drexel entered a convent and used her \$20 million inheritance to establish a mission for the order. In her lifetime,

the order established 12 American Indian schools and more than 100 rural and inner-city schools for black students, including New Orleans' Xavier University, the only historically black Catholic college in the country. She died at 95.

William Paterson

to host discussion,

'The good death: Does it exist'

WAYNE—The diversity of beliefs, values, and practices that cultural and religious groups bring to the process of death and dying will be explored during a conference, "The Good Death: Does It Exist?" to be held at William Paterson University in Wayne on Friday, March 31.

The event, designed for professionals who provide end of life care, is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Marburg Student Center Ballroom on campus. Admission is \$35 and \$10 for students.

"Dying and the meaning of death are often defined by our individual cultural and faith

"Dying and the meaning of death are often defined by our individual cultural and faith experiences"
—Daphne Joslin

experiences," says Daphne Joslin, director of William Paterson's Institute for Creative Aging, one of the sponsors of the program. "It's important for professionals who work with chronically ill or dying persons to be more conversant in the perspectives of different cultural and religious groups so they can provide appropriate support and care."

Dr. John Mitchell, chair of the department of biomedical ethics at Seton Hall University, will present the keynote address, "Understanding the Many Faces of Death in America."

Following his presentation, a panel of professionals who provide end of life care will discuss the issue from a variety of cultural and religious perspectives.

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HILLARY WOOS THE BLACK VOTE IN NEW YORK

Plainfield development may have negative effect

However, some Plainfielders who have followed many development schemes over the years are questioning using this valuable and highly visible piece of land to house social service agencies that may have a negative effect on the area. Some are asking why not a more upscale plan for the site.

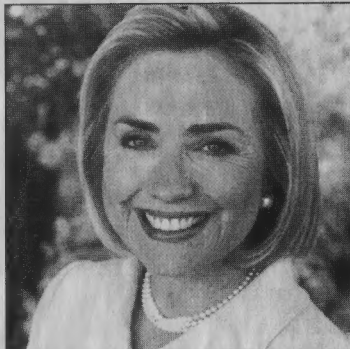
With the speculation of building a new jail, now a social service complex, how much can one small municipality house. The pattern for Plainfield has become to place

The Improvement Authority's role includes selecting a qualified developer, providing financing and funds for property acquisition, and supervising project development. The agency has the power to issue bonds for financing public projects.

AST Development Inc. will be the project developer, with an investment of \$40 million for construction of a County/State building, new strip of retail stores and a parking garage.



Gov. Whitman photo by Herb Glenn



prominent new resident, the Westchester Black Women Political Caucus, has pledged to support her effort throughout the county. However, her main challenge is not downstate New York, which has a large strong black vote, but upstate, which is

Other services include recreational programs, cultural events and instruction, field trips, civic projects, and activities associated with Boy/Girl

With the Diallo decision now an issue tearing at the fabric of New York City, and the appeal in the hands of the Justice Department, Clinton may well have another weapon in his arsenal against Giuliani's candidacy.

School Districts

"For students who have never left their neighborhood let alone their cities, the Family Friendly Centers have given them the chance to see the ocean, museums, zoos, cultural and sporting events," said Commissioner Guhi. "They have also enjoyed nature hikes and swimming lessons through partnerships with organizations like the YMCA."

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WEEKDAYS 9-5

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WEEKDAYS 9-5

March 22 - March 28, 2000

Women's History Month Calendar

MARCH 23

UPPER MONTCLAIR — Montclair State University (MSU) presents "Work and Family: A Balancing Act" at the Student Center Ballrooms, 9 a.m. Call (973) 655-7140 for more information.

MARCH 24

UPPER MONTCLAIR — MSU presents the lecture "Enduring Equality: Picturing International Jubilee Day and the problem of Impenetrability," at Dickinson Hall, 11 a.m. Call (973) 655-8114.

MARCH 25

LODI — The Women's Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark will be hosting International Jubilee Day at the Faldin College, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (973) 497-4010.

MARCH 25

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Black Women's History Conference presents "Celebrating Sisters Around the Globe" at Rutgers University Douglass College, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call (732) 932-4636.

MARCH 26

HACKETTSTOWN — The Skylands Writers & Artists Association features writings and poetry highlighting Women's History Month. The Front Patrons of Canterbury College, 3-5 p.m. Call (908) 852-1400, ext. 2287.

MARCH 27

UPPER MONTCLAIR — Dr. Nawal El Saadawi, Egyptian physician will speak on "Women Creativity and Dissent," at the Student Center Ballroom A, 5:30 p.m. Call (201) 200-3189.

JERSEY CITY — The New Jersey City University (NJCU) is sponsoring a discussion on "Women Rising: Your Self-Esteem" Women's Center, 4:30-6 p.m. Call (201) 200-3189.

JERSEY CITY — The NJCU Women's Center is holding a "Legal Education Program," a series of consultations with attorney Wanda Molina. Women's Center, 6-8 p.m. Appointments are required. Call (201) 200-3189.

APRIL 1

NEWARK — The Sixth Annual Newark Women's Conference presents workshops on women's issues, at New Jersey Institute of Technology, Hazlet Student Center, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration fee. Call (973) 353-5881 or (973) 923-8924.

Mayor's commission inducts Women into Hall of Fame



Dr. Mabel Bentley Perry
photo courtesy of Corbett Communications

NEWARK — The Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women will induct seven New Jersey women into its Hall of Fame on March 30, an honor bestowed upon outstanding women since 1998. The list of year 2000 honorees includes distinguished professionals in education, financial services, entertainment and counseling.

"We are proud to recognize and honor this distinguished group of New Jersey women," said Deputy Mayor Dolores Henry Metz, Honorary Chairperson of the Commission. "The significant achievements made and wealth of talent held by these women are yet more signs that the City of Newark is a haven for upwardly mobile professionals and a place ripe with possibilities for greatness."

Established in 1992, by Newark's Mayor Sharpe James, the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women is committed to enhancing the quality of life for women and their families by heightening awareness of women's issues through seminars and public forums. In addition, the Commission mentors Newark's next generation of women through offering activities in the high schools and presenting a college scholarship for academic achievement.

Trish Morris Yamba,



Elizabeth Del Tufo
photo courtesy of Corbett Communications

Executive Director of Newark Day Center who serves as Chairperson of the Commission and, "In selecting honorees, we identify women who have made significant contributions to the City of Newark and its residents, as well as the state of New Jersey and its citizens. Our honorees have distinguished themselves in their fields of endeavor; we are proud to induct them into the Women's Hall of Fame."

The 2000 Hall of Fame inductees include:
Dr. Mabel Bentley Perry, who heads Perry and Perry Education Consulting, Inc. with her husband Claude. They work closely with schools, churches and community groups to



Dr. Emily "Cissy" Houston
photo by Herb Olsen

address four target areas: (a) education; (b) health; (c) economic empowerment; and (d) strengthening the Black family in New Jersey.

Elizabeth Del Tufo has been Executive Director of the Newark Boys Chorus School for 12 years. During her tenure at the school, enrollment has doubled, finances have grown; physical space has doubled, and the music department has been revitalized.

Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant is a media psychologist, public speaker, certified sex counselor, and advice columnist for Essence Magazine. Dr. Grant specializes in assertive, new, and affirmative action seminars, multicultural issues,



Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant
photo by William Frazer

parenting workshops, male-female relationships, child and elderly care, sexual harassment, stress management, and leadership and life skills development.

Dr. Emily "Cissy" Houston is a veteran recording artist, multi-disciplined performer and back-to-back Grammy award winner. She has influenced the music industry with a life long list of credits to her name. Today, she serves as President and CEO of the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children, Inc. and Minister of Music at Newark's New Hope Baptist Church.

Isabel Miranda is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey



Isabel Miranda
photo courtesy of Corbett Communications

(UMDNJ) and is a member of the Board of Directors of the UMDNJ Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Ms. Miranda is a Director and Senior Vice President of U.S. Trust Company of New Jersey where she manages the Trust and Client Services Group.

In addition to the five Hall of Fame Inductees, The Honorable C. Delores Tucker, Chairperson of the National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc., and Patricia Ryan, a founding member of the Trustees of the Women's Board of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), will be presented with Lifetime Achievement awards. Tucker has tirelessly labored to advance the concerns of her constituents and further the cause of justice for people of color, and Ryan has worked diligently to bring a higher profile to the NJPAC including its annual Gala, which last year was the largest fund-raiser for a non-profit organization in the history of New Jersey.

The Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women Annual Hall of Fame Tribute will be held Thursday, March 30, at 7 p.m. at The Newark Club. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call (973) 242-3505 for more information.

Our Miss Brooks: A delicate thread in American History

By Gilda Rogers

UNION—Before Brown vs. Board of Education, before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus, before the army was desegregated, before Martin Luther King Jr. became a household name, there was Gwendolyn Brooks, Our Miss Brooks, who in 1950, while Harry S. Truman tended to America's business, our Miss Brooks left many folks, black and white, with mouths gaping when a book of poems entitled "Annie Allen," garnered her a Pulitzer Prize.

Brooks, an American treasure, and a diminutive figure is still blessed with an abundance of strength at the age of 83. With a voice as robust as blackstrap molasses and as rich as pure gold, Brooks, who has written over 25 books, graced the stage at Kean University's Wilkins Theatre on March 15, as part of its Contemporary Writers Series — and man can this woman go! She read, and read, and read poems never tiring while never even taking a drink of water, she read on. And even when her time was up, audience members in request of poems were obliged as she read one more. She was something to see while being quite an entertainer.

A truth teller, Brooks read a variety of poems that covered a myriad of topics — from Winnie Mandela to child molestation. She is gifted in poetically chronicling the ways of the world, and is empathetically keen in expressing the suffering and pain of others.

The Chicago native has received numerous awards, and over 75 honorary doctorate's and with all of these accolades, she still remains a very personable human being — who aligns with a line in one of her poems "ordinary and beautiful."

Prior to the event, a reception in her honor was held at the Nancy Thompson Library, where a never-ending line formed for Brooks to sign books of her poetry. She insisted on signing every book, until finally she had to be ushered off by Dr. Margot Banks, who was instrumental in bringing Brooks to Kean's campus.

Brooks told the audience she had been to Kean before, some 25 years ago and if she returns in 25 more years, she expects she'd see the same type of audience — one comprised of all races and ages.

"I want to thank all of you who went through a lot of trouble to get me to come here, to involve you with love, light, and loss, and liberty, and lunacy and laceration — all that — you will find in my poetry."

It is important to remember that Brooks is a delicate thread woven into American history and a true spiritual voice for all Black Americans. This woman, who was exposed by her mother at an early age to the likes of James Weldon Johnson and Langston Hughes with this marvelous twinkle in her eye, is a featured poet in many college anthologies. There are schools named after her. She has served as a consultant to the Library of Congress; she was appointed Post Laureate of Illinois, after the death of Carl Sandburg, and still holds this position.

She is Gwendolyn Brooks, and in this case — a poet by any other name just won't do!

"I want to thank
all of you who went
through a lot of
trouble to get me to
come here, to
involve you with
love, light, and loss,
and liberty, and
lunacy and
laceration — all
that — you will find
in my poetry."

—Gwendolyn Brooks

IN MEMORIAM

The Women's Fund of New Jersey is proud to remember Dr. Wynona Moore Lipman



Dr. Wynona Moore Lipman

Dr. Wynona Moore Lipman, who passed away May 9, 1999, was the first African-American to serve in the New Jersey State Senate and was the Senate's only woman for many years. She was the founder and chair of the State of New Jersey's Commission on Sex Discrimination in the States.

Dr. Lipman sponsored the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act in 1981 and in 1991. The act was the toughest domestic violence legislation in the country. Dr. Lipman was a strong advocate on behalf of minority and women-owned businesses, affirmative action, family leave, pay equity, the treatment of men and women in prison, enforcement of child support, regulation of home childcare, and low-income housing. The Women's Fund of New Jersey salutes her pioneering career and inspiring character.

dedication and photo provided courtesy of The Women's Fund of New Jersey

CityLife

March 22 — March 28, 2000

Investment strategies for businesses

By Kelly Foster
Staff Writer

Among the BizTech Expo 2000's scheduled workshops was Venture and Angel Financing. Venture capital are funds that are invested at a high risk of loss in potentially highly profitable enterprises. Individuals need angel investments when they have already established a business and need additional funds to continue the business, as opposed to seed investments, which are needed when financing a new business. Angel investing is important because some investment companies are partial to financing established businesses.

Jill Johnson, of the Urban Venture Group Project, moderated the workshop. Panel participants included David Bowen of the Ascend Venture Group, James Simmons of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, and Marva York of Merrill Lynch.

Ascend Venture Group invests in companies in the early stages of development. To date, they have invested in 16 companies, including StarMedia and Cosmo.com, a home delivery service. The Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, of which Simmons is a vice-president, is a not-for-profit group, the largest urban development fund in the country. Merrill Lynch, where York works as a financial consultant, specializes in equity financing.

The problem with starting a business is that some small businesses interested in financing are unfamiliar with how to present themselves to investors, said Johnson. Bowen said that one of the most important things to remember when presenting a business plan is the quality of the management team and how well the team works together. Companies should have some start-up experience, he stressed. Investors want companies that have the ability to grow quickly, he added. Probably most important, though, is the presentation of the business plan. "The presentation should be well written and polished," he said. The plan should include the mission state-

"If there is a blemish in your credit report, I have to fight harder. Watch your debt as well as your equity."

— Marva York

ment of the company and the type of market the company intends to target. A detailed financial plan is a key factor.

York, noted that Merrill Lynch makes loans to companies with at least a five-year history, strives to provide financing for those who are often ignored. "We have a mandate to loan money to more women and minorities but we're precluding them," York said that reasons for the preclusion is that their minimum loan is \$200,000, and potential clients require a blemish-free credit record. Merrill Lynch tries to make exceptions if they can, however. "We're trying to bring more of you (women and minorities) to the table," she declared.

The time frame for obtaining loan approval varies, according to the panelists. At the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, the process takes about four months on average, but can possibly take five to six months. Simmons stated, York said that at Merrill Lynch, the process takes two to four weeks for loan approval. Bowen stated that the shortest processing time at Ascend is about three weeks, and the longest is two months.

York said one of the most important pieces of advice she could give potential investors is to control their debt. "Don't give Merrill Lynch the chance to turn you down," she emphasized. "If there is a blemish in your credit report, I have to fight harder. Watch your debt as well as your equity."

BizTech

sets the pace for the new century



Shirley Ward, of PSE&G (right) talks with New Jersey Secretary of State Buster Soaries at the BizTech Expo 2000.



Competitive Inner City Award honoree Talib Abdul-Aziz, owner of International House of Pancakes in Newark with Gov. Whitman during the BizTech Expo 2000.



Competitive Inner City Award honoree Felicia Guobadia, owner of Makeda's Restaurant in New Brunswick and Stuart Smith with Gov. Whitman during the BizTech Expo 2000.



Jill Johnson of On Point Consulting presents exciting new Urban Venture Capital plan.



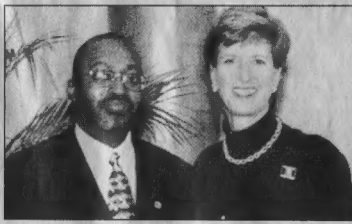
Lou Hendi, manager of External Affairs at Bell Atlantic, demonstrates Bell's new online registration software at BizTech 2000 Expo.



Ernest Williams of NJ Transit helps attendees understand opportunities available through mass transit.



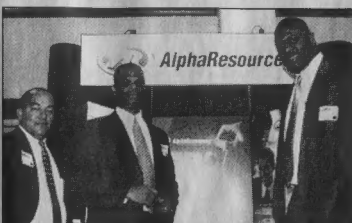
Competitive Inner City Award honoree Tracy Syphax owner of Capital City Contracting in Trenton with Gov. Whitman during the BizTech 2000 Expo.



Competitive Inner City Award honoree Gary Nye, owner of Nye Tech in Jersey City with Gov. Whitman during the BizTech Expo 2000.



Newark Deputy Mayor Delores Metz brings greetings from the City of Newark.



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Whitman proclaims BizTech Expo 2000 an unqualified success

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

A popular shipping and handling company has a slogan promising they move at the "speed of business." That's a very good promise, but it begs the question, how fast does business move, especially in the information age?

The answers to that and other questions regarding technology and minority business owners and entrepreneurs were on display at the BizTech Expo 2000, which took place at the Newark Airport Marriott Hotel on March 13.

"Affairs like this bring the technology and the people together," said Vincent R. Taylor, the president of VRT Entertainment, a multimedia production company specializing in commercials, television and movie production. "There's a lot more work to be done, but this is a great start. This expo and the businesses and vendors here were excellent as were the people working it."

Taylor said the Internet and television are coming closer and closer everyday, with a lot of opportunity for minority businessmen and entrepreneurs.

Perhaps the highlight of this year's expo — with the exception of the awards luncheon and the honorees — was the appearance of Governor Christine Todd Whitman. She said she attended the event to reaffirm her commitment to making sure every member of New Jersey's "one family," takes part in the New Economy, and to ensure that there are economic opportunities available for all New Jerseyans regardless of race, ethnicity or gender.

Whitman also played up the \$165 million high-tech package she announced during her State of the State address and the cyberdistricts initiative that came out of it. The initiative proposes creating a fund to provide planning grants to cities that want to set up their own cyberdistricts which will bring job opportunities to urban areas and support local businesses in these areas.

Whitman praised City New Marketing Group and its owners, Dr. Henry and Jan Johnson, for creating and producing the BizTech Expo 2000.

"By enabling urban business people to make connections and catch up on the latest technology trends, you are providing the means by which our economy can continue to grow in the coming years," she said. "Our cities were an essential part of the 19th century industrial revolution. I believe that cyberdistricts can help them become integral to the technological revolution of the 21st century."

BizTech Expo 2000 was created by the City Marketing Group, a division of the City News Publishing Company, to emphasize that point. Its purpose is to help small and minority business owners — especially those located in the Newark metropolitan area — learn about corporate supplier, airport supplier, and construction industry opportunities and meet companies purchasing construction materials.

The expo represents the evolution of the First Annual Business Expo, which took place last year at the Marriott. Moving into the future and recognizing that technology is a major force for growing business, City News and the sponsors of the event decided to stage the "BizTech Expo 2000 Where the Future Begins."

The list of the sponsors of this year's event include: Schering-Plough, GPU, PSE&G, Horizon Mercy, the Port Authority of NY & NJ, Office of Business & Job Opportunities, Bell Atlantic, Prudential, Dun & Bradstreet, AT&T, the Board of Public Utilities, BAA, Newark Inc., AlphaResources, the Greater Newark Business Development Consortium, the NJ Economic Development Authority, NJ Transit, Host Marriott Services, First Union, PNC, WBLB 107.5 FM, WLBB 1190 A.M., and Newark Airport Marriott Hotel.

Last year five cities were presented with Inner City Awards, this year five corporations and five businesses were chosen. The corporations are: PSE&G, Schering-Plough, Prudential, the Port Authority of NY & NJ Office of Business and Job Opportunity, NJ Transit, and Bell Atlantic. The businesses are: Serge Clebert, LaSirena Furniture, Elizebeth, Gary Nye, Nye Tech, Inc., Jersey City, Felicia Guobadia, Makeda's Restaurant, N. Brunswick; Talib Abdul-Aziz, International House of Pancakes; and Tracy Syphax, Capital City Contracting, Trenton.

Heartbeat
Calendar

MARCH 22

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group for parents of children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the teaching room of the Intensive Care Nursery every Wednesday from March 22 to April 12 from 7-8:30 p.m. Call (732) 745-8000, ext. 8860 for more information.

MARCH 23

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital will host a support group for those needing help to stop smoking every Thursday from March 23 to April 13 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the hospital's medical office building.

MARCH 27

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a prostate cancer support group from 7 to 9 p.m.

Committee approves
Cohen health care bill

TRENTON — The Assembly Health Committee recently approved legislation sponsored by Assembly Deputy Minority Leader Neil M. Cohen that would require state approval of a sale or transfer of a non-profit hospital's assets when converting to a for-profit entity. The measure (A-1439) — entitled the "Community Health Care Assets Protection Act" — would address issues that arose during the aborted attempt by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Jersey to become a for-profit company. It also would help protect taxpayers' investments in New Jersey hospitals that are targeted for takeover by large, national, for-profit companies.

The bill would develop uniform standards and establish a health care purposes. The congressional process would be overseen by the state Attorney General.

The always-changing health care market conditions create a need for equal regulatory treatment and competitive equality for health care providers," said Cohen (D-Union). "But we need to ensure that New Jersey taxpayers don't get the short end of the stick."

The measure would require a non-profit hospital to notify the Attorney General within 90 days of its intention to change to a for-profit entity.

Under the measure, the Attorney General would be required to hold at least one public hearing and notify the non-profit corporation in writing of his or her decision to approve or disapprove the proposed transaction. County hospitals would be exempt from the provisions of the bill.

"More and more non-profit hospitals in the state are being converted to for-profit hospitals," said Cohen. "This measure would ensure that any proceeds from the sale of hospitals would benefit the community in terms of charitable health care purposes, instead of lining corporate 'bigwig' pockets."

If deemed necessary, the for-profit entity which acquires a non-profit hospital is responsible to the Attorney General on the available community health care access, including levels of uncompensated care provided to indigent persons.

"This provision would guarantee a transaction won't result in the deterioration of the quality, availability, or accessibility of health care in the affected community," said Cohen.

The issue was brought into light after Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Jersey — a non-profit entity which registered substantially from special tax and competitive concessions — attempted to take its \$1 billion in assets and change to a for-profit mutual insurance corporation.

The success of Blue Cross has been largely due to its non-profit status which qualified them for many state incentives, such as tax exemption," said Cohen. "As it attempted the merger, Blue Cross didn't even offer a token refund to the state for the decades of taxpayer assistance the company enjoyed."

Cohen's bill would not, however, affect any future Blue Cross/Blue Shield merger attempts.

HeartBeat
Heart Hospital in Newark performs 200th heart transplant

NEWARK — It was just 11 days after receiving a new heart that Rose Johnson-Smith, a resident of Bloomfield, left the Heart Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, marking the hospital's 200th heart transplant and its first for the new millennium. Nearly three years after she was diagnosed with congestive heart failure, Johnson-Smith, underwent the four-hour transplant on Jan. 24th, receiving the heart of a 38-year-old New Jersey man.

"I feel like a new person. It's amazing to me how this all came together," beamed the 62-year-old Johnson-Smith, mother of three, grandmother of nine and great grandmother of seven. "If you told me six months ago that I would get a new heart, and be able to get out of bed and walk across the room without extreme pain and difficulty, I wouldn't have believed it. It really is a miracle."

For the Heart Hospital of New Jersey, one of only two facilities in the state certified to perform heart transplants, Johnson-Smith represents a significant milestone. Started 10 years ago by Mark Zucker, M.D. of Chicago and Luzzi Fazio, M.D. of New York, the heart transplant program continues the Heart Hospital's comprehensive heart failure management program, led by Hillel Rabin, M.D., director of cardiology. In 1996, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center was acquired by the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, a move which added significant depth to the program. Today, two transplant surgeons, three cardiologists, five full-time nurses, a home one morning after shopping and that she sought medical help.

After undergoing several tests and exams, Rose was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and treated for a short time with medication. Surgery was not an option because a cardiac catheterization revealed her



Heart recipient, Rose Johnson-Smith and Mark Zucker M.D.

heart was too damaged, posing too much of a risk, according to Trevor Atherley, M.D., Rose's referring cardiologist and director of the Medical Cardiac Telemetry Unit. At that point, Johnson-Smith was referred for transplant evaluation. She underwent extensive screening and counseling, and was subsequently placed on the transplant list. Then, in the early hours of the morning on Jan. 24th, she received a call from transplant cardiologist Luis Arroyo, M.D., that her procedure would take place later that day.

"I remember being very matter of fact about what was happening to me in just a few hours. Maybe it was my way of remain-

ing calm," she recalled. "Naturally, my family was very excited about the good news."

That afternoon, Thomas Prendergast, M.D. performed the heart transplant without complications. An 11-day hospital stay followed, providing Johnson-Smith much needed time for recovery and reflection.

"In the days leading up to my operation, I focused on trying to feel better physically, to maintain my strength and prepare for the transplant. And while they (cardiac transplant team) are very thorough in the screening and counseling beforehand, it's difficult to imagine the magnitude of what's happening. It's just now setting in with me about how special a heart trans-

plant is and how blessed I am."

"I want so much to give back, to do something to say thank you for all the excellent care and attention I've gotten. You just don't receive a gift like this and then do nothing, go on your way like you haven't been affected. I feel like there's a purpose to me here. I've been told that the best thing I can do is to take good care of myself. Frankly, that's the best I can do," she said.

What The Future Holds

In Dr. Zucker's estimation, advancements in heart transplantation will continue at a steady pace. However, the biggest challenge remains education for the purposes of increasing organ donation.

"The public's view of heart transplantation as a proven procedure and accepted practice, a cure if you will for heart disease, is not as widespread as we would have hoped," said Dr. Zucker, Director of Cardiothoracic Transplantation. "With each passing year, there's significant progress made that just isn't recognized by the mainstream population."

"Aside from advancements in surgical techniques, today's medications, primarily those we refer to as 'anti-rejection' drugs, are much more effective than they were 10 years ago; than even just three years ago. In fact, those coming to trial in the next five to seven years are said to be significantly less harmful to the immune system than present medications," he continued.

Dr. Zucker added that heart transplantation will also be affected by advancements in artificial devices such as the axia flow pump and the artificial heart. Even animal-human transplants will come to fruition over the next few decades, he said.

For now, though, Johnson-Smith will continue her weekly visits back to the Heart Hospital for routine biopsies and other testing. Eventually, the visits will be biweekly, then monthly and eventually bi-monthly.

Irvington General Hospital to conduct
program on the American Diabetes alert

IRVINGTON — Irvington General Hospital will be conducting a special program as part of the American Diabetes Alert campaign in cooperation with the American Diabetes Association on March 24, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Following a glucose screening from 9 to 10:30 a.m., there will be a nutrition presentation and a cooking demonstration. Diabetes Risk Tests also will be distributed, and light refreshments will be served.

This public service effort is part of a nationwide campaign to reduce the 5.4 million people living with undiagnosed diabetes. Diabetes is a serious disease that affects the way your body uses food. If left untreated, it can slowly destroy the blood vessels and the nerves without warning. Seventy-five percent of people with diabetes have no symptoms. Although there is no cure for diabetes, people can live well if it is diagnosed early and properly treated. Lifestyle changes can reduce your risk for getting diabetes. Several studies show diabetes is strongly linked to family history, increasing age, lack of exercise, and being overweight.

Program for caregivers gives advice
about home care at St. Peter's Hospital

NEW BRUNSWICK — The challenges and lifestyle adjustments that face the caregiver of an elderly loved one can be just as great as those faced by the parents of a newborn.

Many of these challenges may not be anticipated, and could place an unnecessary emotional burden on the primary caregiver, other family members and the one being given the care.

To better prepare the caregivers for these adjustments, Saint Peter's University Hospital will offer a five-week program on Taking Care of Your Elderly Loved Ones at Home beginning April 11. The course will be held in the hospital's Sister Marie de Pazzi Conference Center, 254 Easton Avenue, New Brunswick, on five consecutive Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

The course is designed to provide practical advice and emotional support to the caregivers, and will cover topics such as



Although you can't change your family or stop growing old, you can make sure you exercise regularly, eat a diet low in fat and high in fruits and vegetables, and keep your weight under control.

The free Blood-Glucose Screening Program will take place at Irvington General Hospital on March 24 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in Classroom B. Please do not take food or drink — except water — at least 8 hours before the test. For more information, call (973) 359-6280.

chronic illness in the aged, the psychological aspects of aging, what community resources are available, and financial and legal issues.

This is a very important and practical course for those faced with caring for an elderly parent or other loved one and for those already providing care," said Alicia Felicia, R.N., of Saint Peter's Education and Development Dept. "It will not only address a

number of problem areas and questions, but it will also give you a new perspective and understanding of the elderly persons' feelings about how they are being cared for a difficult adjustment for them to make, as well."

The fee for the course is \$30 and covers the registration of two family members, all class materials and light refreshments. For more information or to register for the course, call (732) 745-8600 extension 8421.

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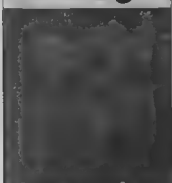
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Music Reviews



Various Artists *Romeo Must Die Soundtrack* (Blackground/Entertainment/Virgin Records)

For those who have been longing for music from Aaliyah and her usual camp of friends Timbaland and Magoo, Ginuwine, and Playa, this soundtrack satisfies your hunger and quenches your thirst. In addition, Aaliyah brings some familiar and new artists into her inner circle for this album.

With the music focused on her movie, Aaliyah has three out of four good songs on the inspirational track, "Try Again," the melodic "Come Back in One Minute" with DMX, and "Don't Stop" the slow track from another soundtrack, "Romeo Must Die."

Following her lead is Joe with "Rose in a Concrete World," Destiny's Child's "Perfect," Ginuwine's "Simply Irresistible," and "This is a Test," by Chanté Moore.

The album also takes a more gritty turn with BG from Cash Money on "Rollin' Haw" and Mack 10's "Thugz."

Overall, this album is a solid choice highlighted with the tracks from Aaliyah and Timbaland in almost two years. However, the material stays within the traditional boundaries of women singing about commitment and the men rapping or singing about "promiscuity" which does not necessarily present anything new or fresh from



Various Artists *Freedom Song* (Sony Music)

Filled with the Negro spirituals that inspired more than a half-century of reaching the "promised land," that place where blacks were not continually oppressed and second class citizens.

Produced by James Horner with words and music by Carole King, "Freedom Song" provides a rare blend of soothing melodies that are spread throughout the project.

With vocals by Sweet Honey in the Rock, a soothing selection is found in "Welcome to S.N.C.C." and "Making Progress is Rough and Slow," which have songs whose roots are quietly linked to African tribal chants.

Then there are the traditional selections, entitled "This Little Light of Mine," and "I'm On My Way To Freedom Land."

In between the songs is a narration, like "Hungry For Change." The Movement Group, by the way, is one of the actors in the movie, guiding you through the album.

The overall tone is that of sorrow, triumph, hope, and inspiration. Most of what is communicated is through choruses without words, and sound bites from the movie, which was a television movie on TNT.

Send your entertainment news and events to:
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High standards help Line Drive bring it home for fans

By Robert Williams

It's a great thing when a music artist touches the hearts of their audiences and fans with their work.

It's even greater when the music inspire fans to return the love.

For Jose Loo, who sings lead with the contemporary and innovative jazz group, Line Drive, it's one of the best compliments to the group and its sound.

"The best compliment I ever received from one of my songs, was during a break at one of our concerts a woman came up to me and looked piercingly into my eyes and started thanking me. It seemed in a very heartfelt manner, for playing 'That Is Why,' said Loo. "She said it touched her soul in a very deep and spiritual way. It was an incredible moment for me."

Moments like these make it all worthwhile for the band, who hail from the Jersey Shore.

"I walked away thinking that this is why I play music. I am fulfilling my purpose as an artist," said Loo.

It was that purpose that helped create the group, which began over twenty years ago.

Drummer Gary Dates, Chris Plunkett, who plays bass (and the bassball fan who came up with the group's name), and guitarist Tim Boyce came up with the idea of being an instrumental fusion band inspired by the member's frustration with being sidemen in bands that did not meet their music standards.

However, their success did not come without challenges from contemporary pop music of patriotic rock songs and bandanas.

Within a year, we were parking bars and were thrilled. Mind you, this was in the heart of Springsteen's country, so the idea of a progressive, instrumen-



The cover of Line Drive's first album, "We Could've Been Contenders"



Line Drive

tal fusion band was pretty extraordinary in a world dominated by the "Asbury Park" sound," Dates said.

Eventually the group added members saxophonist Rick Brunnermer and keyboardist Chris McKevitt. But even with these additions, they still needed one more element: a singer.

"After one year, we decided to add a vocalist in part to make our music more palatable to the general public," said Loo.

"We agreed she would only act as a singer that was up to our standards musically and who could fit in with our style," which at the time was very funky/jazz/fusion," Dates said.

It was not long before they found their first man. Loo headed through the grapevine about the opening and auditioned making it an easy choice as to who the band was going to select.

"After auditioning tons of

people, we were just about ready to can the whole idea, and in walks this kid with holes in his jeans and a car that spewed black smoke, and blew us all away," said Dates of the day he met Loo.

It was much later that the band added another singer, Kathy Washington to complete

its sound.

"She was a bit shy at first. We didn't know if she could hang. I know. I saw a lot of potential, and the audience always seemed to dig her sincerity on stage."

The band released its first album, "We Could've Been Contenders," in 1994, and followed

up with, "You've Gotta Believe In Something," in 1997, both which have a blended flavor of soul, funk, jazz, and Latin music.

And as with most sophomore albums, Dates found the second album to be a stronger follow-up to the first.

"It has a more cohesive direction, and carries a clearer message of hope and healing that has an encompassing message," Dates said.

It was the warm response the group received that eventually had them performing in every part of New Jersey, opening up for such acts as the Special FX, David Byrne, and the late Grover Washington Jr., who they opened up for at the Count Basie Theatre.

"Grover Washington was a true spirit of grace and humility. He was very encouraging to us, and an inspiration to an entire generation of musicians," Dates said.

Along with Washington, the band counts various jazz artists Earth, Wind, & Fire, Donny Hathaway, The Beatles, Stevie Wonder, and many others as influences on their music.

For more information on Line Drive, visit their site at www.golinedrive.com.

MUSIC NOTES

'Harry Belafonte to perform at John Harms



Harry Belafonte

Legendary singer Harry Belafonte will return to the John Harms Center for the Arts for a performance on Sunday, April 16 beginning at 8 p.m.

Belafonte, known throughout his 50-year career as a concert singer, recording artist, actor, and producer, will provide a mix of his old and new songs, including "Banana Boat," "Island in the Sun," "Matilda," and "Jump in the Line."

For more information, telephone (201) 567-5797



Johnny Mathis

Johnny Mathis to perform at the State Theatre

Renowned singer Johnny Mathis will perform Saturday at the State Theatre in New Brunswick as the star of the Twelfth Benefit Gala, scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

Mathis will sing some of the classics that earned him over 50 gold and platinum album awards worldwide. Songs he is best known for include "Chances Are," "Misty," "Wonderful! Wonderful!" and "The Twelfth of Never."

For more information, telephone (732) 240-7469

Herbie Hancock to perform at Blue Note in New York



Herbie Hancock

Jazz great Herbie Hancock is scheduled to perform Mar. 21-26 at 9 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. at the Blue Note on 151 West 3rd Street in New York.

Hancock will perform with Eddie Henderson, Elie Gegibiri, Ira Coleman, Terri Lynne Carrington and Cyro Baptista.

For more information, telephone (212) 475-8592

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Billboard

MARCH 24

The State Theatre presents "Turandot" by the Teatro Lirico d'Europa at 8 p.m. Call (732) 246-7469 for more information.

MARCH 24-26

NJPAC hosts Urban Bush Women and National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique at the Victoria Theatre. For ticket information, call (888) GO-NJPAC.

THROUGH MARCH 26

The New Jersey Theatre Group presents "The Fantasticks" Call (973) 593-0189 for ticket information.

MARCH 29

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater presents "Swan Lake on Ice" with the St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet at 8 p.m. Call (732) 246-7469 for more information.

MARCH 30-APRIL 22

The New Jersey Theatre Group presents the world premiere of "The Appointment." For ticket information, call (973) 593-0189.

MARCH 30 & 31

NJPAC presents Philip Glass, trending master of contemporary music, at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call (888) GO-NJPAC.

MARCH 31

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture presents "The Nation Black Writers Conference." For more information, call (212) 348-1681.

APRIL 1

NEW YORK — NJPAC hosts Irish pop star Mary Black. Call (888) GO-NJPAC for ticket information.

APRIL 7

NJPAC hosts the Boston Symphony Orchestra at 8 p.m. Call (888) GO-NJPAC for ticket information.

APRIL 8

NEWARK — The African Grove Institute for the Arts hosts a benefit performance of the play "Jinny" by August Wilson. Call (973) 412-1907 for show times.

For the Bookshelves of African Americans



good peoples



MARCUS MAJOR

Marcus Major Good Peoples. Dutton/Penguin Publishing.

This dynamic story is a look at the other side of the love game: the thin line males must cross when making a commitment in Philadelphia. "Good Peoples" explores the uncommon male, the one that has found the one and has no fear of expressing his emotions.

Adding to that, we find the new woman, the professed female of the nineties, making her way into the new millennium.

Myles Moore is having a "dry spell" with women, and is doing nothing but hanging with his friends and being laid back. Not helping is his friend Amir, a married but still creepsin' brother, and best friend Carlos, who is keeping his options open for the meantime. Moore's friends bug him about his "lifty female standards," and good-timing brings him a beautiful hope.

His friends and one of their wives hook Moore up with Marisa Marrero, a Latina lawyer who has her own talk show. The two hit it off instantly, but Moore finds himself free-flowing with his emotions, which chases Marrero away. He follows in hope of showing her one thing: they were made for each other.

Astronauts find new forces to reckon with in sci-fi flick "Mission to Mars"

By Matt Creinson

NEW YORK (AP) — If the space program had kept to the ambitious pace of the Apollo years, astronauts would almost certainly be to Mars by now, treading lightly on the brick-red soil and beaming home pictures from the final frontier.

But alas. For the time being, we'll have to settle for "Mission to Mars," which is to "2001: A Space Odyssey," what today's humdrum space shuttle missions are to the heroic moon shots of yore.

It is 2020. Gary Sinise plays Jim McConnell, a grizzled NASA veteran who loses his place in the mission rotation when his wife and crew partner played in flashbacks by Kim Delaney of "NYPD Blue" dies of some horrible and unspecified disease. McConnell stands by gallantly as his best buddies embark on humanity's first mission to Mars.

Sure enough, something goes horribly wrong out there. With nothing but a fuzzy transmission from the accident's sole survivor to go on, McConnell and three crewmates volunteer for a daring rescue mission. Accompanying our damaged hero are mission specialist Phil Ohlmyer (Jerry O'Connell), and yet another husband-and-wife team composed of Woody Blake (Tim Robbins) and Terri Fisher (Connie Nielsen).

Apparently in the future,

Whoopi looks at clip of 'Color Purple,' says 'I'll never be that good again'

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — Entertainer Whoopi Goldberg watched a clip of her Oscar-nominated performance in "The Color Purple" and shook her head.

"I will never be that good again. Everything was brand new," Goldberg said Thursday during 15th annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival ceremonies honoring the actress.

Wearing a long, white cat-tan, red-tinted glasses and her signature dreadlocks, Goldberg laughed so hard she cried during an interview that included a montage of clips from her films "Seapish," "Clara's Heart," "Sarafina," "Star Trek: Generations" and "The Color Purple."

Asked what she was thinking while watching a 5-minute clip of the 1985 movie "The Color Purple," she said, "Just how young I was then. I'm looking at a baby."

Goldberg said it was great to re-experience moments from her older films.

"I do forget," she said. She added later that it's difficult to watch her films objectively. "It's hard to watch my movies straight through because I'm thinking, 'Geez, I had my period that day.'"



Whoopi Goldberg

Actress Halle Berry accused in hit-and-run accident

LOS ANGELES, CA (NPPA) — Actress Halle Berry fled the scene of an auto accident in which she and her other driver were both injured, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Tuesday, adding that prosecutors would decide whether or not to bring criminal.

The sheriff's office filed a criminal complaint alleging that Berry, 33, star of the film "Bulworth," was behind the wheel of a rented car that ran a red light Feb. 23 causing a collision on Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood, a left the scene of the accident.

Department spokesman Sgt. Ronald Fernstrom said it would be up to prosecutors to decide whether to bring formal charges against the actress. Fernstrom said there was no evidence that either alcohol nor drugs were involved.

The driver of the other car,

Muhammad Ali takes jovial job at Will Smith

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Muhammad Ali took a friendly poke at Will Smith, who is playing the former boxer in a film.

Ali joined stars, producers, directors and studio executives at a luncheon for theater owners highlighting Sony Pictures' upcoming movies.

Ali, whose Parkinson's Disease impairs his speech, slows his walk and causes his hands to tremble, told the crowd that "some guy named Will Smith," will have tough shoes to fill.

"He's supposed to be playing me," Ali said. "It's impossible."

Smith will star in "Ali," a biographical film that will cover the boxer's early career as Cassius Clay and his later years as Ali.



From left, Gary Sinise, Kim Delaney, and Don Cheadle look on in wonder in their roles as astronauts who travel to the planet Mars in the new, future in the feature film "Mission to Mars."

charting the final frontier will be a family business. Not to give it all away, but the plot is embarrassingly derivative of "2001." Mysterious object left by aliens leads humans to higher plane of existence.

But where "2001" had Strauss' "Thus Spake Zarathustra," "Mission to Mars" has Van Halen's "Dance the Night Away." Where "2001" had spare, utilitarian dialogue, "Mission to Mars" has stilted chatter that grates all the more when delivered by such accomplished performers as Sinise,

"Thanks for saving my life, buddy," Cheadle says gamely after all is resolved. "It was a privilege," Sinise replies. Just try not to listen, because the one place where "Mission to Mars" approaches its predecessor's greatness makes the whole thing worthwhile. There are majestic views of tiny astronauts floating in space above the rusty martian surface, and terrifying dust storms whipping across a forbidding desert landscape. Director Brian DePalma's long, twisting shots evoke the

nausea. Every scene has a stunning visual beauty that gets the heart beating faster and conjures up the rare thrill of venturing into the unknown. Most of the Mars scenes were filmed on a 55-acre outdoor set in the Fraser sand dunes near Vancouver, British Columbia, which stunningly recreates the landscapes that NASA's Mars probes have seen. Others were shot in the Jordanian desert.

Word is that NASA was very helpful in the project, and no wonder—it is practically an advertisement for human space travel. But in a way, "Mission

to Mars" does a disservice to space exploration by giving us the impression that it is all about us.

It isn't. There are no canals on Mars, no mysterious face peering out at us from the planet's surface, probably no living organisms and certainly none bigger than a bacterium. There is nothing for us there but a barren, dead planet waiting to be explored.

Isn't that enough? The film was produced by Tom Jacobson and released by Touchstone Pictures.

Volanda Young, NNPA columnist, gets six-figure book deal

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NNPA) — National Newspaper Publishers' Association columnist, Volanda Young, has just received a six-figure book deal for the publishing rights of her family memoir entitled, "On Our Way to Beautiful."

The signing advance given to Young, a first time author by Random House is a validation of her lyrical prose and poignancy of her true story. It is also an indication of the faith the literary industry has in the credibility and marketability of Young, since the typical advance awarded is usually only five to ten thousand dollars.

"On Our Way to Beautiful"—which is being compared to Maya Angelou's poetically rendered "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings"—recounts Young's experience growing up in Shreveport, Louisiana. It speaks of a turbulent childhood and the joys of growing up in a family dominated by strong, protective men and compassionate god-fearing women. It describes the torment of witnessing the shrouds of her mother by her father, but also reveals the comfort and love of her large southern family, and nurturing security she found at St. Peter Baptist Church.

An attorney, lecturer, and nationally syndicated writer, Young is a weekly contributor to NNPA. Her column, which covers subjects as divergent as



Photo courtesy of the National Newspaper Publishers of America

Volanda Young

sports, culture, and politics, has inspired and entertained our readers. A substantial portion of her book advance, future earnings, and time, will go to charities and organizations dear to Young, including the National Black Child Development Institute, The National Breast Cancer Alliance, and The Howard University Sports Foundation.

City Verse

City Verse features the works of aspiring poets and writers. If you have some work or know someone who does, send entries (under 200 words) with your full name, pen name, favorite writer and book, and literary goals to: City Verse, 111 Mulberry Street, Suite 118, Newark, NJ 07102.

I Got A New Life

By Virginia Bryan

I got a new life you wait and see I am building that foundation, and only me Got those priorities straight so when I go through that gate won't be back to this place too much living to do — don't want to waste the precious time I have on God's Earth I got a new life — a brand new birth mistakes are made by many after this rap, for me, there won't be any no more negative thoughts none of those actions which made me sleep on these cots I am doing things that are right for I want to see the light of day on the outside again our women are in need of the very best men I got a new life want to be a good role model no drugs, no booze from that addictive bottle telling all those out there trying to be cool doing what's wrong only proves you are a fool stay straight, do good, I ask of you you'll go far and live large too these things I now know without strife cause I got a new life

Virginia Bryan, 60, is a South Carolina native who currently resides in Neptune, N.J. She is a University of Maryland alumna who looks to Maya Angelou as her favorite writer and hopes "to become an inspirational writer, and continue being a good role model for my children as well as others."



Muhammad Ali



Will Smith

Black History of the Oscars

By Rob Williams
Staff Writer

He's the one man of a golden skin tone that white Hollywood respects.

He yields a power that decides which actors and actresses get \$20 million or \$20,000 for their next film.

The man dictates who's the best thing in Hollywood, and the has-beens whose careers are fading with the sunlight of the Hollywood sunset.

A dark-skinned man with this much power over white Hollywood? No, this is not a film itself.

It's the Oscar!

The Man. The Boss. The Alpha.

But even with all this power, the golden-skinned caricature has knighted 71 best leading actors, 71 best leading actresses, 71 best supporting actors, and 71 best supporting actresses, only to be handed over six times to actors and actresses of his color.

From mammies to maids, promiscuous to prominent, and oppressed to liberated, Hollywood has continually tapped into the talent pool of black actors and actresses to portray an array of challenging roles.

Not just challenging in terms of testing the boundaries of an actor's or actress' range, but some that caused them to sacrifice the dignity of their culture in order to expose white Hollywood to it.

But yet, out of 71 years, 284 awards, and over 1440 nominees, only six black actors and actresses have won awards, and less than 20 have been nominated. And only one time has an award been given between both leading actor and leading actress categories.

So why the dry spell?

One white movie reviewer rendered an insightful observation. After watching "The Best Man" starring Fyfe Duggs and Nia Long, the reviewer thought the movie was excellent and had all praises for the film. However, he said because no white actors or actresses were not in the "good movie" as he called, it would be hard to attract a white audience.

And although it is just one man's opinion, looking at all the black winners who have been awarded, you will notice that all were in movies with well-known white actors in them. Almost as if —"it ain't white, it ain't right."

But this year stands a test of time and evolution. With nominations for Denzel Washington and Michael Clarke Duncan, do they stand a chance to be a lucky seventh black actor to win an Oscar?

For Washington, his only real competition comes from Kevin Spacey, whose movie "American Beauty" still is receiving rave reviews since its release. Comparing this with Washington, whose movie Hurricane has not seen much publicity since February, after its release in late December.

But for Duncan, his chances are much more weak. He is up against British heartthrob Jude Law, Michael Caine, who gave one of his best performances in "Cider House Rules," and fading heartthrob Tom Cruise, up for "Magnolia."

Whether the Oscar goes to Washington or Duncan, it still is a stark reminder of a long-lasting point in order for black movies and actors to be respected, there must be an affiliation of some kind with a white actor or studio. And it is only when Hollywood moves away from this mentality, that the Oscars will reward a wider variety of true talent on its stage each March.

Do you think that change will start in the new millennium? Stay tuned.



1996 Best Supporting Actor

Cuba Gooding Jr. *Jerry Maguire*
William H. Macy *Fargo*
Armin Mueller-Stahl *Shine*
Edward Norton *Primal Fear*
James Wood *Ghost of Mississippi*



1989 Best Supporting Actor

Denzel Washington *Glory*
Danny Aiello *Do the Right Thing*
Dan Aykroyd *Driving Miss Daisy*
Marlon Brando *A Dry White Season*
Martin Landau *Crimes and Misdemeanors*



1963 Best Leading Actor

Sidney Poitier *Lilies of the Field*
Albert Finney *Tom Jones*
Rex Harrison *Cleopatra*
Paul Newman *Hud*



1990 Best Supporting Actress

Whoopi Goldberg *Ghost*
Annette Bening *Grifters*
Lorraine Bracco *Goodfellas*
Diane Ladd *Wild At Heart*
Mary McDonnell *Dances With Wolves*



1982 Best Supporting Actor

Louis Gossett Jr. *An Officer and a Gentleman*
Charles Dunning *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*
John Lithgow *The World According to Garp*
James Mason *The Verdict*
Robert Preston *Victor/Victoria*



1939 Best Supporting Actress

Hattie McDaniel *Gone With The Wind*
Olivia DeHavilland *Gone With The Wind*
Geraldine Fitzgerald *Wuthering Heights*
Edna May Oliver *Drama Along the Mohawk*
Maria Ouspenskaya *Love Affair*

This year's nominees

For the best performance by an actor in a leading role

Russell Crowe in *THE INSIDER* (Buena Vista)
Richard Farnsworth in *THE STRAIGHT STORY* (Buena Vista)
Sean Penn in *SWEET AND LOWDOWN* (Sony Pictures Classics)
Kevin Spacey in *AMERICAN BEAUTY* (DreamWorks)
Denzel Washington in *THE HURRICANE* (Universal and Beacon)

For the best performance by an actor in a supporting role

Michael Caine in *THE CIDER HOUSE RULES* (Miramax)
Tom Cruise in *MAGNOLIA* (New Line)
Michael Clarke Duncan in *THE GREEN MILE* (Warner Bros.)
Jude Law in *THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY* (Paramount & Miramax)
Haley Joel Osment in *THE SIXTH SENSE* (Buena Vista Pictures)
Donal Donnelly in *Spoggy's Entertainment*

OTHER NOMINATIONS

- Samuel L. Jackson, Best Supporting Actor, *Pulp Fiction* (1994)
- Dorothy Dandridge, Best Leading Actress, *Carmen Jones* (1954)
- Alfre Woodard, Best Supporting Actress, *Cross Creek* (1983)
- Ethel Waters, Best Supporting Actress, *Pinky* (1949)

OTHER NOMINATED BLACK ACTORS AND ACTRESSES



Diana Ross, Best Leading Actress, *Lady Sings the Blues* (1974)



Morgan Freeman, nominated twice, Best Leading Actor, *Driving Miss Daisy* (1989), *Shawshank Redemption* (1994)



Laurence Fishburne, Best Leading Actor, *With It* (1993)



Oprah Winfrey, Best Supporting Actress, *The Color Purple* (1985)



Angela Bassett, Best Leading Actress, *What's Love Got To Do With It* (1993)



Cicely Tyson, Best Leading Actress, *Souther* (1972)



Diahann Carroll, Best Leading Actress, *Claudine* (1974); James Earl Jones, Best Leading Actor, *The Great White Hope* (1970)

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS CONSTRUCTION MONITORING SERVICES

AS REQUIRED 2000-2001
The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) is seeking qualifications from firms for construction monitoring services, including on-site inspection and review of construction documents. The projects to be monitored by the CRDA are Atlantic City, NJ and possibly elsewhere. The CRDA may, from time to time, solicit specific proposals from firms whose qualifications are appropriate for specific projects. Neither the number nor the identity of the projects is known at this time. The projects to likely to be awarded, relatively small assignments, normally in Atlantic City, NJ. Some services for major projects are likely to be provided by separate Requests for Proposals.

PLEASE NOTE: The construction monitoring services required by CRDA are not to be confused with construction management services. The services required by CRDA are limited to monitoring of construction projects, as typically needed by a construction lender. Such services may include services such as, but not limited to: (1) attending meetings with project developers and contractors; (2) collection and review of contract documents, specifications, drawings, budgets, applicable laws, and other documentation; (3) review of invoices and recommendations of payments; (4) review of change orders; (5) auditing all stages of the construction project; and periodic reports on the status of the project budget and schedule; (6) periodic on-site inspections to monitor the amount and quality of construction material and to verify the propriety of all requests for payment; (7) final inspection of the project and issuance of an audit and final completion report certifying that the work has been completed and reviewed and approved by appropriate authorities; and that all payments have been made correctly; and that there are no known uncompleted major construction disputes which would impact the CRDA's interest and providing a project summary analysis of the actual costs compared to the projected costs, and recommending release of any retainage held by the CRDA. From time to time assignments may also involve (1) construction scheduling; (2) building evaluation; (3) cost estimating; (4) value engineering.

In selecting the most highly-qualified professional firm with which to contract for these services, the CRDA shall consider the following criteria:

1. The experience and qualifications of the firm and designated project team in providing construction monitoring services on projects of similar size and complexity in Atlantic City (or other municipality where the project is located);
 2. The experience and capability of the firm and designated project team in respect to any special technologies, techniques, or expertise the project may require;
 3. The past performance of the firm;
- If awarded a contract, your company/firm will be required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) Against Discrimination in Public Contracts. The contract shall be between the CRDA and the Consultant, and shall be acceptable in form and content to the CRDA.

Please send your qualifications to:
Kenneth Raetz, Project Development Officer
Casino Reinvestment Development Authority
1014 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-347-0000

\$163.16



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Housing Authority of the City of Orange is seeking a multi-disciplined architectural and engineering firm (A/E) to provide professional services for the implementation of work items included in the 1999 Comprehensive Grant Program (CGP) as follows:

1. NJ25-1 (4 buildings) and NJ 25-2 (4 buildings) upgrade elevators. Budget amount \$400,000.00.
- Interested A/E firms are invited to contact Harold A. Phipps, Executive Director, at (973) 677-4333 if there are any questions on construction intent.

Specifications can be obtained at the Administrative Office of the Housing Authority of the City of Orange, 340 Thomas Boulevard, Orange, New Jersey during regular business hours or can be mailed by calling (973) 677-4553.

Two (2) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 3 p.m. on April 10, 2000.

Harold A. Phipps, M.B.A.
Executive Director

HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The New Brunswick Housing and Redevelopment Authority (the NBHA) is soliciting proposals for qualified firms or individuals to create and implement a Home Ownership Program to work within the framework of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) HOPE VI program.

Further information about the NBHA, the scope of services, the proposal evaluation criteria and the proposed contract can be obtained from the NBHA, 18 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901 or by calling (732) 745-5146. Ask for the Instruction to Propose-a-Home Ownership Program. Proposals submitted without due regard to the instructions to Proposers will not be considered.

Proposals are due at the above address including an original and three copies not later than 3:00 p.m. on April 3, 2000. Envelopes containing the proposals should be clearly marked **HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM**.

Kevin Quince
Executive Director

\$58.53

NOTICE OF ADDENDUM SANITARY SEWER PROJECT ORRONT ROAD AND RIVER ROAD TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ADDENDUM NO. 1
March 17, 2000

Prospective Bidders and all concerned are hereby notified of Addendum No. 1 for the Sanitary Sewer Project - Orront Road and River Road Areas in the Township of Chatham. This Addendum modifies the following:

1. Sanitary Sewer Project Orront Road and River Road Areas - Contract Documents, Specifications are revised due to errors in reproduction.
2. Modification to Section 00300, BID FORM
3. Modification to Section 00485 BID DOCUMENT SUBMISSION CHECKLIST
4. Modification to Section 01010, SUMMARY OF WORK.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge Licensed or Duty Authorized Real Estate Appraiser

Notice is hereby given that qualifications will be received by the Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge for the Appraiser's Service to evaluate WHA real assets.

Request for Qualifications package including evaluation criteria may be obtained at the Administration Office located at 20 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey, 07095 on weekdays between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM for a \$75 non-refundable fee, payable by check or money order only.

Qualifications shall be accepted until 11 AM on March 28, 2000, and must be submitted in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the submitter, clearly marked "Appraiser Services", and addressed to Ms. Donna F. Brightman, Executive Director, 20 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey, 07095.

The services to be performed are regarded as professional services. As such, the professional ability, size of the organization, primarily to the Housing Authority and other similar factors may be utilized in awarding the contracts involved herein.

The Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge reserves the right to reject any or all submittals, or any part thereof, for any cause whatsoever. No submittals shall be deemed accepted or a contract awarded until adoption of a resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Woodbridge. Proposed subject is subject to possible cancellation until approved by the UD Department of Housing and Urban Development.

WHA is EOE and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability status in employment or procurement of services.

Donna F. Brightman
Executive Director

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The Clark Police Department is soliciting Police Officer candidates under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Transfer Program sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Personnel. Interested candidates must have the following qualifications:

- presently employed by a Law Enforcement agency sponsored by the Department of Personnel
- meet state minimum police experience
- hold valid PTC certification
- reside in Union County

Interested applicants should forward their resume by May 10, 2000 to:

Clark Aron Danco
315 Wyckoff Avenue
Clark, NJ 07066

For additional information on the Intergovernmental Transfer Program, contact the New Jersey Department of Personnel at 609-632-7191.

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**Personnel Director
New Jersey Department of Education
Reference# NJ-06-046-072
PO Box 500 - Trenton, NJ 08625-0500**

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Ponder This...



By Greg Moore

Out of the madness, it's Duke

Once again the time has come for madness to beset sports bars and office pools across the country as the 2000 NCAA tournament gets underway. By the time this article is printed, two rounds will have already transpired, so I'll cut to the chase and discuss my final two picks, St. John's and Duke. Although St. John's is a program plagued by an ongoing NCAA investigation into every nook and cranny of Erick Barkley's relationships with everybody he has ever known, Mike Jarvis has done a good job of turning a negative into a positive, and cultivating a us vs. them mentality among his players in the locker room.

This mental toughness, together with the superb play of Barkley, Bootsy Thornton and Lavar Pressell should propel the Red Storm all the way to the championship game against the Duke Blue Devils.

I expect the Blue Devils, last season's runner-ups who rolled into last year's tournament as the prohibitive favorite loaded with four first round NBA draft picks (Elton Brand, Trajan Langdon, William Avery, and Corey Maggette) to fare much better this year and win it all. The primary reason? Chemistry. This year's Devils may be a less talented bunch, but they compliment each other well, and feature freshmen phenoms Jason Williams of Plainfield, NJ and Carlos Bonzo of

Although freshmen guards tend to struggle in these tournaments, Williams has made great strides from a playmaker and decision making standpoint. Bonzo, is a talent who provides Duke with an inside presence. Duke's two main guns however are its All-American tandem of Shane Battier and Chris Carrawell. They are both talented, intelligent, experienced and driven. They will be expected to make the difference in big down the stretch and no doubt they will disappoint Look for Duke to defeat St. John's in the Final 87-77 to capture its third National Championship.

Tournament of Champions

Hopefully, you had a chance to venture out and watch the high school Tournament of Champions. Hopefully you saw Camden's Dajuan Wagner. This kid is more than amazing, he's quite simply one of the most electrifying players ever produced in New Jersey.

He's even better than his father, former Camden Panther, Louie Cardinale, and La Laker Milt Wagner. Wagner the younger has no appreciable flaws in his game — he can shoot, handle, and explode to the rim for vicious dunks.

Lastly, for the past 15 years, NBA Commissioner David Stern has been credited with being a marketing genius. Personally, I've always wondered whether the rise in the game had more to do with Magic, Bird and Michael and less to do with Stern. Well, it appears that with the departure of MJ there has been a corresponding precipitous drop in NBA ratings. Last week, in an apparent act of desperation, NBA brass decided to wire NBA coaches with mikes in an effort to make the broadcasts more interesting. The move clearly backfired as the coaches refused to cooperate, and in the process, reminding everybody that Stern is the only other commissioner in pro sports waiting for another MJ. Wayne Gretzky or Jim Brown.

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Amaker leads the Hall to forgotten land, the 'Big Dance'

By Tom Canavan

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (AP)

— The moment Rinas Kaukenas saw the words Seton Hall appear on the television screen, he reacted. A high five for fellow senior guard Shaheen Holloway and a light punch in the chest of freshman forward Greg Morton.

After four years of waiting, Kaukenas and Holloway experienced something unexpected this season — they earned a berth in the NCAA tournament on Sunday.

Seton Hall (20-9) was made the 10th seed in the East Region and played No. 7 seed Oregon of the Pac 10 in a first-round game in Buffalo, N.Y. last Friday.

"It was like a new feeling that I can't describe," said Kaukenas, a native of Vilnius, Lithuania. "It's like trying to prove to someone that we can do it, and finally someone saw they did it, even though they were struggling and whatever happened in school. It's a great accomplishment."

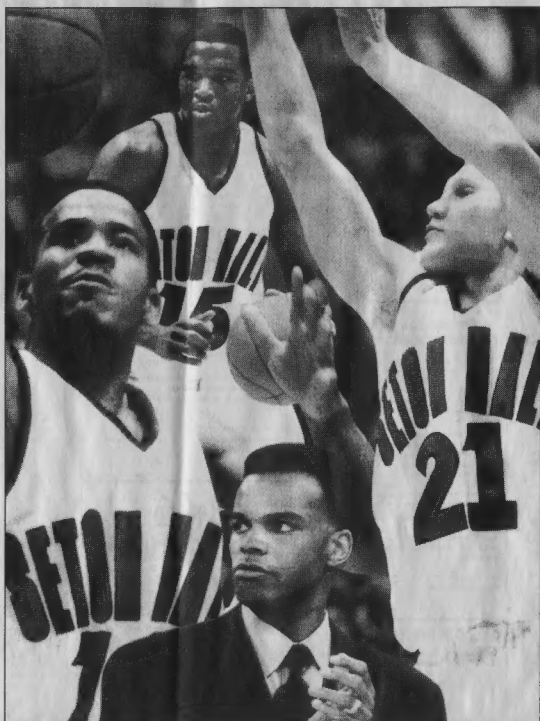
The NCAA selection was the first for Seton Hall since 1994, and the first for the Pirates since Tommy Amaker, 34, took over the program three years ago.

Despite 20 wins and winning 10 games in the Big East Conference, some wondered whether the Hall would get an invitation from the NCAA after losing five of its last seven games.

"I thought our kids did a heck of a lot, and I was hoping that they would get rewarded for it," said Amaker, who led the Pirates to the NIT in his first two seasons.

"I think there is always doubt until your name is actually called up on the board, but seriously I felt that with 10 wins it's very difficult not to make the NCAA Tournament."

It also took the worry out of the day for Holloway and Kaukenas, who were recruited by George Blaney and saw the team post a 10-16 record as freshmen. Blaney was fired after the season and replaced by Amaker.



Future Shock: The best high school ballers from around the way compete

By Martin Saunders

The Prime Time Shootout, one of the country's premiere high school basketball tournaments, which recently took place at the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton, gave all in attendance a peek at maybe a few future all-stars.

This tournament touts some of the best teams and players from the Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York corridor.

There were dozens of fine teams and players but at the top of the class was Eddie Griffin, the 6-9 slender and smooth Roman Catholic (Phila.) product and consensus number one senior in the nation.

Griffin is committed to Seton Hall and head coach Tommy Amaker. Coincidentally, his team played Rice (Manhattan), which matched him against Andre Barrett, his future Pirate teammate. The 5-9 playmaker is listed by many as one of the top, if not the best, point guard in the country.

The game began with Griffin throwing down the gauntlet on a twisting slam that started on the right baseline but ended with him swinging on the left side of the rim. An alley-oop dunk and sweet Tim Duncan-like spin shot by Griffin was interrupted by two of Barrett's three-pointers from the left wing that were launched literally within a few feet of the court side. Amaker, their coach-to-be could have left then and been assured that his cupboard was full for next season. But the effervescent former Duke point guard stayed to watch the Rice romp 66-67.

After a close 25-18 first period, the 23rd nationally ranked Raiders simply outmanned the Cahabes from Philly. Not only did Barrett score 29 points including six 3-pointers, but Rice had too much down low. Kyle Cohen (6-8), who is headed to St. John's had 28 points with 9 rebounds. And Andre Sweet (6-6), still uncommitted, had 21 points with 7 rebounds. Griffin scored 36 points, but his initial aggressiveness evolved into him pressing until he seemed distracted and began to take bad shots as the deficit continued to increase.

Earlier in the day, Christ The King (Middle Village, New York) defeated Chester (Pa.), 67-59. CTK was led by Omar Cook, listed as 6-1, but perhaps closer to 6-10, and one of the best point guards within the five boroughs and in the nation. Cook, like a head chef put on the finishing touches — a close game with about five minutes remaining in the final period was taken over by Cook when he sank three baskets and delivered a pass for an easy bucket. He is headed to St. John's, to play for Mike Jarvis. Cook finished with 21 points and 12 assists.

The last game featured Dajuan Wagner, 6-3, junior guard, of Camden HS (NJ). If

Griffin is committed to Seton Hall and head coach Tommy Amaker.

Coincidentally, his team played Rice (Manhattan), which matched him against

Andre Barrett, his future Pirate teammate. The 5-9 playmaker is listed by many as one of the top, if not the best, point guard in the country.

You hadn't heard of "Juanny" or "Lit Wag," surely you will. The son of former Louisville star and Los Angeles Laker, Milt Wagner, Wagner has most, if not all, of the traits asked of a player. He and teammate, Arthur Barclay, (6-8), led the victory over a game with Linden HS (NJ) squad, 70-52.

Wagner, who finished with 32 points, punctuated a 16-2 first quarter lead by rising over several gravity bound players with a follow-up slam from the left baseline. Linden, led by the 6-3 guard, Yaviv Cohen, a senior exchange student from Israel, and 6-6 forward Jamal Tate, headed to Penn State, found its way back into the game with outside shooting. But it was not enough as Barclay, despite chasing Cohen all around the perimeter, put up 26 points and controlled the boards with 19 rebounds.

Sports Shorts



McDonald's All American 2000

The nation's top 24 high school senior male basketball players will display their skills before a national audience when the 2000 McDonald's All American High School Basketball Game tips off at the Fleet Center in Boston, on Wednesday, March 29. The game will be broadcast live on ESPN beginning at 8 p.m. (EST).

In addition to the game, participants will take part in the Sprite Slam Jam, a slam dunk and 3-point shootout competition. The Sprite Slam Jam 3-point contest will be broadcast prior to the game on ESPN from 7-8 p.m. (EST).

Future Seton Hall Players Round-out East Squad.

Andre Barrett from Rare High School in New York along with power forward Eddie Griffin from Roman Catholic in Philadelphia, add to the strength of the McDonald's East roster. Both players have made commitments to play for Seton Hall.

NJ Devils Sold

EAST RUTHERFORD — (AP) The owner of the NHL's New Jersey Devils has agreed to sell the team to a company affiliated with Yankellevest, the parent company of the New Jersey Nets and the New York Yankees. Owner John J. McMullen said the transfer of ownership would take place after the end of the season.

The decision to sell the team was a very difficult one, but it is clear that the future success of the franchise can be assured only by joining forces with the Nets. McMullen said. The Nets have wanted to buy the Devils and take both teams to an arena Nets owners want to build in Newark.

We're in a New-ark state of mind

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